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Athenæum, Sept. 23.

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REVIEWS

Letters of William III. and Louis XIV., and of their Ministers; illustrative of the Domestic and Foreign Politics of England from the Peace of Ryswick to the Accession of Philip V. of Spain. Edited by Paul Grimblot. 2 vols. Longman & Co.

THESE volumes illustrate a period in European history to which little attention has been hitherto paid,—the interval between the Treaty of Ryswick and the commencement of the War of the Spanish Succession. It was a time of deep interest to contemporaries; but much of its interest has been lost to posterity,—events having baffled all the arrangements of statesmen and disconcerted all the calculations of diplomatic politicians. The Treaty of Ryswick was ardently desired by England, France and Holland; but the three powers were very suspicious each of the others, and there were many difficulties to be overcome in arranging a separate peace between France and the Empire. From the time of the wars of the Reformation, the anomalous composition of the Austrian States and the relations of the Emperor to the independent princes of Germany had been the pregnant source of contests and perplexities in Europe. Indeed, neither the anomalies nor the perplexities have been removed to the present hour. Austria continues to be a congeries of clashing and inconsistent nationalities; nor does any one seem to believe it possible that Slavonians, Magyars, Germans, and Lombards can ever be fused into a single nation. The Emperor was in no great hurry to conclude a peace; for the chief expenses of the war were borne by England and Holland, while the chief advantages to be expected from the continuation of hostilities were likely to accrue to the Imperial family. Hence we find the Duke of Shrewsbury writing to the Earl of Portland—"I hope the allies, some way or other, will be prevailed with to be reasonable on their parts; and when they consider what a share of the expense England and Holland bear in the war, allow them to be the best judges when it is time to put an end to it."—In the same spirit Lord Villiers declares to the Duke of Shrewsbury:—

"It will be impossible for the Imperialists to do better than they have done: they have made no recruits this year for want of money. The Prince of Baden was not able to take the field in time, for want of 300,000 pistoles from Vienna, which at last the commissary of the Dutch troops was obliged to advance him: their officers in Hungary are driven to the last extremity for want of pay. You will judge, my Lord, if these people are to be relied on, and if England and Holland will not bear the burden of a new war more than ever."

William III. was anxious for peace because he found himself insecure on the English throne. Those who had been foremost in accomplishing the Revolution felt annoyed at seeing the throne filled by a foreign prince. They complained—and not without reason—that the external policy of England was made subservient to the interests of the allies. They could discover no English purpose to be gained, or even sought, by the continuance of an expensive war; and they were jealous that William withheld his confidence from his nominal cabinet, and reposed his trust exclusively in the Earls of Portland and Albemarle. In order to strengthen his party in England, William III. believed it necessary that the Jacobites should be deprived of all hope from France;—he therefore demanded that James II. should be sent out of that kingdom. This was peremptorily refused by Louis; who, however, declared that he would

allow of no machinations against the Revolution during the continuance of peace. William III. was unable to insist on better terms; for so soon as the preliminaries of peace had been arranged the English parliament insisted on a large reduction of taxation and the dismissal of the greater part of the army. On this subject the King thus wrote to the Pensionary Heinsius.—

"I have already informed you, by the last post, that affairs were going on badly in Parliament. There are men of a singular turn of mind, who give the tone there. I shall be obliged to content myself with the sum voted by the House of Commons for the support of the troops during the current year. I shall get on with it as well as I can. It is fortunate, however, that they have resolved to give half-pay to all the officers who shall be disbanded. I estimate their number at 1,500, or nearly so; so that if we could afford it, we should have the means of forming again a considerable army; and many persons think that another Parliament will be more disposed to do so. What annoys me especially is that they will not allow me to retain some of my regiments of Dutch guards in the pay of this country, while we shall be much embarrassed to find some means of getting them re-admitted into the service of the Republic. In this case, in order to meet the expense of their pay, without causing a new outlay to the States, it will be necessary to sacrifice the six Scotch regiments and a few Swiss regiments besides."

In all the important negotiations that followed we shall find that William III. stood at the great disadvantage of being unable to support any of his recommendations by the threat of an appeal to force. On the other hand, Louis XIV. obviously entertained a high personal respect for the Prince of Orange, and believed that with his aid he could dictate the law to Europe. He received William's ambassador, the Earl of Portland, with very unusual honours,—admitted him to confidential interviews as if he had been one of his own ministers,—and seemed anxious to establish a frankness and candour in his diplomatic relations with England not usual in the intercourse between sovereigns, and least so at the close of the seventeenth century. The Earl, who had all the phlegm of his countrymen, does not seem to have been intoxicated with such honours. Probably no passage in these letters more curiously illustrates character than the Dutchman's description of the beauties of Versailles.—

"After all this, I must give your Majesty some account of the gardens, the houses, and the chase. Owing to the wretched weather, I have not been in a hurry to see the former, for everything looks dead and dirty, and the fountains are not playing, in consequence of the long frost, which has hindered the machines from drawing water to fill the reservoirs. The orange trees at Versailles are extremely large and fine, and very numerous; the stems are lofty and beautiful, but the crowns are not like those of Honsleedick, and those of Trianon are of little account in comparison with the others. It is extraordinary that I have not seen any fruit trees in the environs, and I have been obliged to send to Orleans to get some that I wanted. Of all the thousands of flowers, of which your Majesty has heard that all the parterres were so full at all seasons, I have not seen a single one, not even a snowdrop; and the gardens are by no means as neat in winter as ours; nothing is done to them. At Versailles all is magnificent, gardens and buildings and everything, though faults may be discerned in the latter, by persons who are no more of an architect than myself. The expenses there are immense. Trianon is very agreeable and charming, but Meudon surpasses all in situation, and the air must be like that of Windsor. The prospect is rich and beautiful, and the whole would be to your Majesty's taste. This is all that I have seen. The wolf hunt, which I did not see till yesterday, surprised me, for I believed it to be coarse, requiring great swiftness, and of long duration, whereas it is neither the one nor the other. The wolf we gave

chase to was not above a year old. The country was the most detestable in the environs. We took him fairly in less than two hours, though the dogs are far from being so swift as your Majesty's stag-hounds. They hunt along the road and the avenues of the forest, as in England, in an inclosed country. MADAME never lost her way, and did not leave the side of the Dauphin. Your Majesty may judge what difficulty I had in keeping up with them."

At this period Louis XIV. was ambitious of becoming the despotic pacificator of Europe. Nothing had been definitively arranged at Ryswick. The peace was little better than an armistice, during which an opportunity was afforded for the discussion of arrangements.

A very slight historical and family sketch will serve to explain the difficult questions which tasked the diplomacy of France and England. Charles II., of Spain—a prince equally feeble in mind and in body—wearied of a disastrous war with France, had consented to the Treaty of Nimeguen, A.D. 1678; and in the following year had married Maria Louisa of Orleans, by whom it was said that he had no prospect of having issue. If the Spanish throne should become vacant there were three rival claimants to the inheritance:—I. The Dauphin of France in right of his mother, the sister of Charles. She had indeed renounced her rights of inheritance at the time of her marriage; but the validity of this renunciation was contested, and even some of those who allowed it to be valid denied that it could bind her posterity. II. By the will of Philip IV., supposing the renunciation to be valid, the inheritance devolved on the electoral prince of Bavaria in right of maternal descent. But the Emperor insisted that Philip had no right to make such testamentary disposition, and he claimed the Spanish crown (III.) for one of the archdukes his sons. Queen Maria Louisa, who was devoted to the interests of France, fell a victim to poison. Her successor was a sister to the Emperor; and she exerted herself to secure the inheritance for the Austrian family.

William III. saw that the liberties of Europe would be seriously endangered if France should obtain possession of the Spanish monarchy; but, like Mr. Canning, he particularly dreaded the effects on Dutch and English commerce if France should acquire "Spain and the Indies." The King's letter to Heinsius is based on the very principles that led Mr. Canning to recognize the independence of Spanish America. It is singular, however, that he believed the English to be more insensible to their commercial interests than the Dutch.—

"As far as I can penetrate into the opinions of most people here, there seems so great an aversion to a war at present, that, should France make any kind of plausible proposals of accommodation, and I should ask the opinion of Parliament respecting them, there is no doubt that they will be inclined to accept them, without considering much the security of them; so that, in case a war is to be the upshot of the business, I must take my measures so as to involve this nation insensibly in it. What I can do at present is, to augment the squadron I had destined for the Mediterranean, and hasten its departure. I am also resolved, besides the ships I had destined for the West Indies, to cause those that are there to remain till further orders: this will make a considerable squadron. I have also thoughts of sending four or five regiments to Jamaica, under pretence of defending our possessions in those parts. I hope to find money for it, which is here always the great stumbling-block. If these men are once there, you will easily feel that, in case of necessity, they may make themselves masters of the Spanish possessions in the West Indies, without France being able to hinder them. I believe, also, I shall be able, at least for some time, to put off any further reduction of troops. This is the utmost it will be in my power to do in the present juncture; the rest must be done by the States and the other allies; at all events

it is certain the Republic must begin and lead the dance."

From the letters of Count Tallard, the French ambassador, it is obvious that William III. did not over-rate the difficulties which he would have to encounter in prevailing on the English Parliament to adopt his views of foreign policy. Tallard's sketch of political parties in England in 1698 is the more interesting because it includes some curious particulars of social life at that period.—

"London, May 9, 1698.

"The king of England is very far from being master here; he is generally hated by all the great men and the whole of the nobility: I could not venture to say despised, for in truth that word cannot be applied to him, but it is the feeling which all those whom I have just mentioned entertain towards him. It is not the same with the people, who are very favourably inclined towards him, yet less so than at the beginning. The friendship which this prince shows to the Dutch, the intimacy in which he lives with them and with foreigners, the immense benefits which he confers on them, and the declared favour of the Earl of Albemarle, who is a very young man, have produced the effect I have mentioned. The nation is divided into two parties, under whose name all the others have rallied: one is called the Whigs, and the other the Tories. The first is composed of Presbyterians, and of those who are opposed to arbitrary power and the royal authority. It is they who have placed the crown on the head of the present king. The second is composed of Episcopalians, of those who are in favour of monarchy, and who consider the king at present on the throne as king only *de facto*, and not king *de jure*. These two parties divide all England between them. The king has of late passed several times from one party to the other, according to his wants, and has always abandoned, in order to succeed in his object, those who were in office, and who were opposed to the prevailing party. Hence arises the difficulty he has in finding persons whom he can place in office; nobody desires it, and in this respect every thing is in perpetual motion. Nothing can equal the prodigality and disorder in the finances of England during the whole of the late war. Every thing was done without regularity or system, and without economy; and I confess that nothing has given me so much surprise as the details which have come to my knowledge on this subject. No Englishman has any real share in the public affairs, except the Lord Chancellor, a man of about thirty-seven or thirty-eight years of age, whom the King has placed in that office, much attached to that prince—very honest, and much esteemed by all parties. He is, however, employed solely on the home affairs of the kingdom. The Secretaries of State attend to nothing whatever except the affairs of the provinces. All the rest passes the hands either of the King himself, who writes a good deal, or of the Earl of Albemarle. I am persuaded that when the Earl of Portland returns he will find a place, though in this country he is looked upon as ruined. The King is accused of being idle, at least of not being so laborious as he should be. He dines or sups three times a week with the Earl of Albemarle, and a short time before setting out for Newmarket he one day sat five hours at table. King James has still friends in this country; and it is certain that if the expedition from La Hogue had succeeded, the greater part of England would have declared in his favour; and it is true that the present king has no solid foundation for the strengthening of his power in this country, except his army, of which he is the master, and the vicinity of the Dutch, who are also at his disposal. He has given the whole weight of Parliament to the House of Commons; the House of Lords has no credit whatever. Nothing is so different from the manners of former times as the present style of living among the noblemen. They have no intercourse one with another after they quit the House: most of them go to dine at some tavern, and afterwards they repair to places called coffee-houses, where everybody goes without distinction. Of these there is an infinite number in London, and there they remain till they return home."

This sketch seems to have led Louis to believe that he could mould William to his

wishes by adopting the course which he had pursued in the reign of Charles II.,—and offering him, if necessary, independence of his Parliament, or even assistance against that body. In a letter to Tallard, Louis says—

"The more his power is limited by the Parliament, the greater is it his interest to unite closely with me. The other powers propose alliances to him only to draw subsidies from him: he cannot expect any assistance from them, even if he has need of it; and besides, the Parliament deprives him of the means of giving them the same subsidies with which that prince supported the league during the last war. He knows, on the contrary, that by entering into engagements with me, they bind him to nothing but what he is able to do, and that, if my assistance becomes necessary to him, he may be sure of finding it always ready. I know that he has no reason to place the same reliance upon the disposition of the House of Austria towards him; and that if the face of affairs in England should change, he would find but few resources in the alliance which he has always had with that House. I will tell you also—and you will make such use of it as you shall believe to be the most suitable—that the partisans of the Emperor in Spain propose to him now to apply to the Parliament, rather than to the King of England, to secure the assistance of the nation against the time when he shall support his pretensions to the succession of his Catholic Majesty. It will soon be seen whether the ministers of the Emperor in England will really take some steps to conciliate the minds of the nation. If they pursue this line of conduct, it is impossible that it should not be justly suspected by the King of England; and that prince must see that he can depend on the alliance of the House of Austria only so long as the Emperor shall believe that it suits his interests."

A partition treaty was obviously the best solution of the difficulties arising out of the Spanish succession; but the question remained—to which of the three claimants should Spain and the Indies be assigned? The Spanish people almost unanimously repulsed the notion of an Austrian duke, and desired a French prince. To this Louis XIV. was naturally inclined; especially as the Marquis d'Harcourt, his ambassador at the court of Madrid, represented to him the favourable dispositions of the Spanish people in the strongest terms. But Louis was finally induced to consent that Spain should be given to the Electoral Prince of Bavaria,—and that Austria should be compensated by Lombardy, and France by the rest of the Spanish dominions in Italy. The reasons for adopting a policy involving such great sacrifices are thus ably stated by Tallard.—

"I have seen what is passing in Spain, because your Majesty has done me the honour to inform me of it. If it were possible that the Marquis d'Harcourt had connexions formed, and strong enough to enable him to assure your Majesty that one of the sons of the Dauphin will be called to wear that crown, I venture to say that, if it is not in concert with the King of England, your Majesty will be again engaged in a war, similar to that which you have so lately terminated; that this kingdom, Holland, a part of the princes of Germany and the Elector of Bavaria will have recourse to it at the first step that shall be taken, and that the Emperor will not forget himself; that the fleets of the first two nations will go to seek for aggrandizement, in the most considerable ports which the Spanish monarchy holds in America; and that all the affairs of the world will fall into a chaos more fearful than they have ever yet seen; that the destiny of Italy will be uncertain; whereas, by a treaty, your Majesty will gain all that part of Europe, except Milan; for, Sire, it may be said, that you will be the master, when you have the kingdoms of Naples and Sicily, Sardinia, the places on the coast of Tuscany, and Final; while the Archduke inherits only Milan, from which you may expel him in the sequel, by dividing it among the Swiss, the Venetians, and the Duke of Savoy; that Spain, in the hands of a prince of your house, will be as much your enemy, on the first opportunity, as in the hands of the electoral prince

of Bavaria; lastly, that by what I propose, your Majesty will humble the House of Austria, infinitely increase your power by remaining master of Italy, and will cause Spain to fall into the hands of the Electoral Prince, who has no dominions save that kingdom and the fragments of the Low Countries; that he is young, unmarried, and may die; and that, if that happens, after some years' peace, you are still in the condition to do, on that side, what shall be most suitable to your interests, and this with the more success as you will be aggrandized by the states of Italy. As for the health of his Catholic Majesty, it is true that it is a little better; but the minister whom the King of England has at Madrid believes that he will not get through the winter; and the physicians of England, with whom those of Spain have been in consultation, are of the same opinion. The King of England has hitherto acted with great sincerity; and I venture to say, that if he once enters into a treaty with your Majesty he will scrupulously adhere to it."

It was while these negotiations were in progress that the mutual jealousies between William and his Parliament reached such a height as to induce the King to prepare a formal act of resignation, which he was with difficulty prevented from making public. Tallard then devised a plan which would probably have conciliated the most powerful of the antagonistic parties. This was, that William should adopt King James's son as his heir, in preference to the Duke of Gloucester, son of the Princess Anne. To this project Louis XIV. thus refers.—

"His Majesty has likewise approved another opinion of Count Tallard, but it is not yet time to make use of it. It must first be seen what effect will be produced by what his Majesty permits him to say to the king of England. If, after an interval of three or four months, that prince should again speak to him on the same subject, he may then propose what he has premeditated to do in favour of the Prince of Wales. The success of this design does not appear to be impossible, and the Catholic religion, in which the Prince of Wales is brought up, is a reason which renders it more practicable. The English, who are naturally fickle, little esteemed by the king of England, and discontented with his government, will become more weary of it in the sequel. If they should proceed to some revolution, the whole nation will easily concur in raising the Duke of Gloucester to the throne; who is brought up among them, in the religion of the country, and considered at present as the legitimate heir. It is therefore for the interest of the king of England to hinder his being considered in that light, to oppose to him, for that purpose, a prince whose right is, without dispute, the most legitimate; but, at the same time that he will appear to do an act of justice in favour of the legitimate heir, he will be securing his own peace and safety. By keeping him in Holland he will be the master, and that prince will not be able to take a step without the king of England being informed of it. By continuing to have him educated in the Catholic religion, and securing to him, by acts of the English Parliament, the free exercise of it, if he should come to the crown, he will make the English desire the duration of his reign, and will certainly prevent them from inviting, to his prejudice, a Catholic prince. Thus, there is every reason for his Majesty to believe that it may perhaps not be so difficult for the Count Tallard to succeed in this project, as it appears at first sight. There is also reason to believe, that if things were so advanced that they could be opened to the king, his father, and the proposal made to him, as a necessary stipulation, to retire to some town in France, more remote from communication with England, this prince would decide upon doing so, to secure to the Prince of Wales the kingdom of England, with liberty to exercise the Catholic religion."

It appears that this project was never communicated to the Court of St. Germain nor discussed with William III. Its adoption would not have been feasible, unless James had consented to have his son educated as a Protestant; and we have evidence elsewhere that the exiled monarch, when sounded on this subject, proved inflexible.

A suppressed despatch, very properly inserted in this collection, gives some curious information respecting the sentiments of Louis and the high value which he placed on the friendship of William III.—

"If things should take this turn, I cannot believe that it would be for my interest to leave the king of England so absolutely dependent upon his subjects, and there would be no more reliance to be placed on the engagements, upon which he has entered, if he should cease to be in a condition to execute what he has promised. In this conjuncture, therefore, it might be proper to assist him to do without the help of his people, and I would do so with pleasure, if, by such means, it were possible to induce that prince to treat with me for the sum which I should give him from the principality of Orange. This proposal must not be made at present, but according to the turn which affairs may take, you may perhaps find an opportunity to insinuate it by degrees; intimating, that as the king of England has no child, nor heir of his own family, it is of little consequence to him that this principality should go, after his death, to the elector of Brandenburg; that, on the contrary, he would secure his authority in England, and consequently the happiness and tranquillity of his life, by finding means to do without the assistance of the Parliament; that it is hardly possible that this principality, situated in my kingdom, should not, from time to time, give occasion to complaints, and that it will always be difficult to prevent them, whatever pains may be taken. You will add to these reasons such as you should think the most likely to facilitate the success of an affair which would be very agreeable to me. In short, it is one which I confide to you, of which I do not think it would be proper to suffer anything to transpire at present, but I leave it to your prudence, to seek for an opportunity of doing so. You will let me know when you think that you have found one, and it will be still more to be wished that it might be possible for you to induce the king of England himself to make some overture to you upon the subject."

All the arrangements of the first Partition Treaty were baffled by an unexpected event. The electoral Prince of Bavaria, having been nominated to the succession by the King of Spain and assured of the inheritance by the joint guarantee of England, France, and Holland, died of small-pox on the 5th of February, 1690. No third party was now left:—a conflict between the House of Hapsburgh and the House of Bourbon was inevitable. Diplomats hoped that war might be averted by a second Partition Treaty,—and Tallard applied himself diligently to the new negotiations. But he saw that a cordial understanding between France and England was more than ever necessary to success; and he revived his project respecting the Prince of Wales. It does credit to his foresight that the difficulty to which he calls the King's attention in the following passage subsequently hurried the two nations into war.—

"I wish with all my heart that I could succeed in my project, for if King James should die before any thing is decided on that subject, I foresee terrible embarrassment, which may be stated in two words,—Would the Prince of Wales assume, in that case, the title of king of England, or would he not? If he does, he must break with this country; if he does not, he abandons his pretensions. On the other hand, I find that the king of England has little influence over the Parliament; that his last speech has not conciliated it; it always does the worst it can."

It does credit to Tallard's sagacity, too, that he trusted more to commercial intercourse than to formal treaties for the maintenance of pacific relations between France and England. His efforts to obtain a treaty of commerce from the court having failed, he intrigued for the same purpose with the parliamentary opposition. He would probably have succeeded had Louis XIV. adhered to the Treaty of Partition; but new events soon changed the position of all

parties. Charles of Spain discovered the negotiations for dismembering his dominions and partitioning them before his death; and he at once published an angry protest against such a breach of the law of nations. The Remonstrance presented to the Lords Justices on this subject, during William's absence in Holland, by the Spanish ambassador was virtually a seditious appeal to the people of England against their sovereign. It thus concludes:—

"If these proceedings, these machinations and projects, are not quickly put a stop to, we shall, without doubt, see a dire and universal war over all Europe, difficult to stop even when we are willing, and most sensible and prejudicial to the English nation, which has newly tried and felt what novelties and the last war have cost them. This matter is so worthy of reflection and consideration, that it is not doubted that it will be owned as such by the Parliament, the nobility, and all the English nation, which has always been so full of foresight into the present and future times: The same nation must consider its particular interests, the trade and the treaties which she principally has with the king and the Spanish nation; the alteration, the division, and separation of which would of necessity draw after it considerable prejudices and damages; and all this is prevented by cutting short the project that is begun, and not to help on novelties that have from all times been hurtful to empires and sovereignties; That the extraordinary ambassador of Spain will manifest to the Parliament, when it shall be assembled, the just resentment which he now expresses, as his master has caused it to be notified to all the public ministers of the kings, princes, and republics that reside at the Court of Madrid."

The refusal of the Emperor to concur in the Treaty of Partition virtually nullified all the arrangements; but the circumstance which most influenced Louis in setting aside the negotiations which he had so long sanctioned was the will of the King of Spain,—who, a little before his death, bequeathed his dominions to the Dauphin's second son, the Duke of Anjou. Before making his final determination, the dying King consulted the dying Pope; and received a reply in which His Holiness, after alluding in pathetic terms to the near prospect of eternity open before them both, declared that the right of inheritance clearly belonged to the children of the Dauphin, and warned Charles not to peril his immortal soul for the sake of the House of Austria.

It appears that the Pope shared the general error that Charles, influenced by his Queen, was disposed to favour the Austrian claims; but in truth he was from the very first impressed with the justice of the pretensions of his sister's descendants, and for many other reasons personally hostile to the whole Imperial family. Louis hesitated for some time between the certain advantages secured to France by the Treaty of Partition, and the bright but doubtful prospects which the acceptance of the will offered to his grandson. He decided in favour of the latter; and excused himself to England and Holland by throwing the blame on the vacillating and doubtful policy of the court of Vienna. The effect which this intelligence produced in England is thus described by King William in a letter to Heinsius.—

"I doubt not but this unheard-of proceeding of France will surprise you as much as it did me. I never relied much on engagements with France; but must confess, I did not think they would, on this occasion, have broken, in the face of the whole world, a solemn treaty, before it was well accomplished. The motives alleged in the annexed memorial are so shameful, that I cannot conceive how they can have the effrontery to produce such a paper. We must confess we are dupes; but if one's word and faith are not to be kept, it is easy to cheat any man. The worst is, it brings us into the greatest embarrassment, particularly when I consider the state of affairs here; for the blindness of the people here is incre-

dible. For though this affair is not public, yet it was no sooner said that the King of Spain's will was in favour of the Duke of Anjou, than it was the general opinion that it was better for England that France should accept the will than fulfil the treaty of Partition. I think I ought not to conceal this from you, in order that you may be informed of the sentiments here, which are contrary to mine. For I am perfectly persuaded, that if this will be executed, England and the Republic are in the utmost danger of being totally lost or ruined. I will hope that the Republic understands it thus, and will exert her whole force to oppose so great an evil. It is the utmost mortification to me in this important affair that I cannot act with the vigour which is requisite, and set a good example; but the Republic must do it, and I will engage people here, by a prudent conduct, by degrees, and without perceiving it."

William never could have succeeded in involving England in the war of the Spanish succession had not Louis, with imprudent generosity, proclaimed the Prince of Wales King of England on the death of James II. This was profoundly resented as an insult to the whole British people, and quite overcame that disinclination to war of which King William so feelingly complained. Into the history of the war we need not enter,—for these volumes conclude with the failure of the negotiations by which such a catastrophe was sought to be averted.

Negotiations frustrated by events have all the disadvantages of "long passages that lead to nothing;" and we could wish that the exemplary editorial care bestowed on these letters had been given to some period of history which had influence and sequence—for the Partition Treaties had neither the one nor the other. The first of these Treaties had no effect, owing to the unexpected death of the Electoral Prince—and the second was frustrated by the life of Charles the Second of Spain being unexpectedly prolonged until he had made a testamentary disposition of his estates admirably calculated to set all the contracting parties at irreconcilable hostility. In fact, the volumes relate to an episode in European history so completely segregated from the chain of political events which binds past and present, that it is evident no change in events could have taken place if all the letters here collected had "remained unwritten."—to use the rather Irish phrase of Baron Kipperda. But though the negotiations ended in nothing, there were some matters developed in their course which we deem sufficiently important to justify the publication of these volumes.

In the first place, they demonstrate that the anomalous state of the Austrian dominions and its incoherent congeries of clashing nationalities have been, as it still is, a constant state of peril to the tranquillity of Europe. Any court but that of Vienna would have seen that the second of the Partition Treaties was the only chance for the Emperor to substitute convenience of geographical distribution for the unattainable fusion which is if attainable the best source of unity. The error of its statesmen has been, and is, to suppose that the destinies of nations can be regulated by the articles of a marriage settlement.

Louis XIV. appears to more advantage in these negotiations than English historians hitherto have been willing to admit. No man can read his letters, as a whole, without perceiving that he was seriously intent on preserving peace in Europe. If he was mistaken in believing that the people of England preferred the succession of his grandson to the Partition Treaty, we have seen that William the Third fell into the same opinion; and the popularity of the Treaty of Utrecht with all but the Whig party is a justification of both.

So far as the evidence of this correspondence

goes, it reverses the common historical judgment. It raises the character of the Earl of Portland, and depresses that of William the Third, on the points in which Bentinck has been most assailed and the King most eulogized. Portland clearly made English interests and English policy his first consideration in all negotiations,—William evidently regarded both as secondary to the protection of Holland.

The least pleasing reflection left by the perusal of these volumes is, that they increase the doubt as to the claim of the Revolution of 1688 to be entitled "*glorious*." Its results cheated all parties. When the Prince of Orange landed at Torbay few of those by whom he had been invited designed to make him king,—and it is exceedingly doubtful if he contemplated such a result himself. Events made his assumption of royalty a political necessity to England and to Europe—and the power derived from political necessities must ever be painful to the possessor and odious to everybody else. From his accession to his death, William felt himself out of his place; and was well aware that the feeling was shared by those who had placed him in it. Fortunately, as Rayherc happily expressed it, "the Prince of Orange was a European exigency as well as an English exigency;" for the union between England and Holland prevented the Continent from being a field for disputing whether the civilized world should be ruled by the despotism of France or by the despotism of Austria.

Before closing these volumes, we must bear more particular testimony to the great care bestowed on them by the editor. The history of a baffled negotiation is a subject from which even the most determined votaries of diplomatic archives might turn in despair; but Mr. Grimblot has added so much of personal interest and illustration to the men and to the events as to invest the whole with a dramatic character, and seduce us into "the long passages" which, though they "led to nothing," contained much to amuse and not a little to instruct in the course by which they were traversed.

Almanacs and Pocket-Books for 1849.

THE earliest of these winter fruits are before us ere yet the autumn be gone. *Punch's Pocket-Book* and *Fulcher's Ladies' Memorandum-Book* and *Poetical Miscellany* are the first literary heralds of the coming Christmas, and the earliest to take the New-Year Time by the forelock.

Our well-established acquaintance *Punch* has the old familiar features,—though not, we think, wearing their best expression. Part I. consists, as before, of useful and serious tables with their comic art comment:—in Part II. *Punch* occupies the entire stage, and conjures with both pen and pencil. As regards the produce of the former, however, there is, on the whole, scarcely the same air of rich and genuine mirth to which the holiday folk have been accustomed by that great masker. The jest is sometimes a mistake and the smile a grimace.—The pencil has been more successful throughout. Its results show no very large share of invention but a good deal of character.—In the subject, however, which forms at once the frontispiece to the volume and the opening paper of Part II., both writer and artist have a capital success. The title of each is 'Higgledy-Piggledy; or, a Domestic Republic:—and our readers need scarcely be told that they are intended to convey a lesson for the times. Our readers shall have the paper—which is a parody on certain Continental doings and doctrines, well conceived and well worked out: and we recommend them to buy the volume, that they

may see how well the artist also has enforced its morals in his peculiar version.—

"Whoever takes in his hand the map of Europe, and puts his finger upon London, will cover that once happy spot where the family of Tomkins—sufficiently numerous to give the idea of a nation in miniature—flourished under the paternal sway of old Tomkins, affectionately termed the Governor. He exercised a sort of limited, or constitutional, monarchy; putting a veto occasionally on certain bills; exercising a right of control over relations, distant as well as near; regulating the extravagance of parties; and while checking undue licence or ruinous excess, doing his best to live in the hearts of those who were subject to his authority. The domestic throne, or rather, the paternal arm-chair, appeared to be cemented on a rug of the most comfortable and solid description, based upon a contented kitchen, a well-disposed nursery, and most of the other guarantees that afford a pledge of family prosperity. The basement had a somewhat numerous but an orderly population of domestics, basking in the sunshine of a fire that brought every comfort within its extensive range, and left no spit unturned to feed the little community. These might be called the Commons,—above whom there was a sort of Upper Assembly in the drawing-room, with a small standing army of light infantry, and at the head of the whole was Tomkins himself, the father of some of his people, and the master of the rest of them. His laws were not stringent, but there was a sort of Alien Act enforced as to the kitchen for the protection of the frontier—the area railings—against followers, and the usual customs, which were, however, not very strictly enforced, prohibited the exportation of kitchen stuff; though it was known that considerable cargoes, under the convoy of a camelot cloak, very frequently left the back-door barrier. It was believed also that the domestic Alien Act had frequently been infringed by those kitchen cosmopolites, the police, as well as by some of those domestic relations or relations of domestics to which the generic names of cousins has been figuratively given. In the Nursery regions, a mixture of mildness and discipline prevailed, the most stringent law being that of the old English Curfew, which required the extinguishment of all candles by eight o'clock; but otherwise, there was a system of indulgence which had perhaps created that spirit of freedom which was sometimes visible in the bearing of the male and female population of the little community. In the Upper Assembly there was a general acknowledgment of the authority of the head, and though measures were sometimes pushed to an extreme, the final veto was more or less reluctantly assented to. The maintenance of Italian relations, by frequent assistance in the operations of Her Majesty's Theatre, was annually the subject of a struggle that usually ended in a compromise. And the Great Emigration Movement towards the Continent or the sea-side, that was invariably got up in the course of the autumn, would frequently create a dispute between the Upper Assembly and the Executive, which for the most part terminated in the consent of the latter to a grant for emigrational purposes, the amount of which depended in some degree on the state of the Exchequer and the prospect of future revenue. Things had remained in this position for some time, when the Great Republican Outbreaks of 1848 suggested to the Tomkins' community the idea of carrying out the same views on a smaller scale, and applying the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity, to a family, as well as to a country. The first symptoms of disaffection were shown among the younger and more energetic portion of the upper classes of the household, where a determination was secretly formed to throw off all allegiance to the Governor. This was manifested by a tone of insolent familiarity on the part of the leader of the male insurgents, and a refusal to conform to the Customs' regulations—one of which required that the barriers should be finally closed at eleven o'clock, a refusal that was met by an increase of the fortifications, and the addition of a patent lock, the key of which was nightly deposited in the hands of the Executive. Goaded by this discomfiture, the revolutionary youth of the Tomkins Community went to work for the purpose of rousing a spirit of disaffection among the higher as well as the lower orders, with both of

whom their position and habits gave them the opportunity of frequent intercourse. In the *salons* they excited a feeling of discontent by flattering the vanity of the females, who were made to believe that they did not enjoy a fair share of those advantages that their attractions deserved, that in fact the millinery fund ought to be augmented; and the cry for re-dress began to be raised under the very ears of the Governor. In the department of the Household, the faithful female functionary who had long held the keys of office—namely, of the cellaret and the tea-caddy—was worked upon by the revolutionist party to complain of the insufficiency of the funds placed at her disposal, and she was continually laying upon the table certain bills which the Governor refused to recognize. As Louis-Philippe fell under the machinations and assaults of Young France, so did the authority we are now speaking of totter under the intrigues of young Tomkins. No considerations of self-respect interfered to prevent this very revolutionary party from fraternizing even with the lowest of the Community to excite a feeling of insubordination. The infantry were tampered with, and were urged to make an absurd demand for the establishment of a sort of *Atelier Nurserie*, in which no lessons were to be learnt, but prizes were to be distributed every day to everybody. Among the infantry of the lower grade—comprising the page—an insurrectionary flame was excited, which vented itself in an insane shout for a cocked hat and other ridiculous emblems of dignity. This proved an ambition eager to burst its buttons; and when to this was added a wild shriek for a coat, the philosopher could see the commencement of a long tale, the end of which it would not be difficult to calculate. The footman was easily turned into one of the very reddest of Red (plush) Republicans, for he was in fact a Republican of *la veille*, and had been for some time longing to fraternize with the Governor. That very formidable portion of the population, *les dames de la Halle*—the ladies of the servant's hall—were ready on the slightest encouragement to rise; and not satisfied with carrying out the principles of fraternisation, or cousinisation, on a most unlimited scale, they demanded the adoption of the provisional system in its largest and most liberal sense, by the admission of all followers to the privileges of tea and all other provisional advantages. This spirit of disaffection, pervading the whole of the Tomkins' community, was brought to bear, with a formidable concentration of power, on the unfortunate 'Governor,' who, having for some time presented a bold and courageous front, was at length compelled to retire before the incessant fire of the enemy, with nothing but his own fire to fall back upon. The principles of family Republicanism triumphed for a time, until, when wages became due, school accounts were sent in, Christmas bills came from every side, and the Governor claimed his right to carry out the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity, by leaving the servants to pay their own wages as he had been left to do his own work, and calling on the members of his community to meet, as they had chosen to control their own expenditure. Happily for all parties concerned, they saw their error in time. The power of the Governor was restored, subordination re-established, and it is to be hoped that the mischief has been stopped sufficiently early to prevent the ruin of the Tomkins' dynasty, and all whose existence depended on its continued prosperity."

This paper and its illustrations are worth the price of the book:—and all the utilities are so much make-weight for the gain of the purchaser.

Fulcher's Ladies' Memorandum Book is the same combination of almanac, blank diary, enigma, answer to enigma, and poetry original and selected, which years have made familiar in this Sudbury Annual. A poem from the pen of an old acquaintance of *Athenæum* readers, Miss Frances Brown, may be quoted as a specimen of the latter portion of its contents.—

For his Sake.

A parting step was on the stair
And nearer to her attic pane,
A weary worker drew to share
The evening light, as dim with rain

It darkened o'er that crowded town ;
The needle paused, the young lips break
Their silence, with a long look down :
" Would times were better for his sake ! "

" The days are dreary now and cold,
They pass like heavy clouds o'er me ;
Is this what men call growing old ?
Oh ! leaves fall early from life's tree !
No matter,—his stand fresh and green ;
Though years before us both look bleak,
But oh ! that all I missed had been
Bestowed for fortune for his sake . "

" Well fare the rich, their chariots roll
Around my toll by night and day ;
I know that wealth can buy the whole
Men strive for in the world's highway .
I have not envied pomp and power
The friends they win, the gifts they take,
But oh ! that mine had been a dower
Of lands and thousands for his sake ! "

" Fair fairs pass me on the street,
With curls of jet or braids of gold,
The light they bring, the love they meet
How oft have these been sung and told !
Yet kindred's pride and suitor's praise
Hang by a thread the breeze may break ;
But would that I to mortal gaze
Had seemed the fairest for his sake ! "

" Beauty and wealth are things of price,
We name them happy that have gained,
Yet fate hath many a dark device
To lessen every prize obtained .
I could not bid the boon take leave ;
But what a world of woe 'twould make
To think his heart to such might cleave
And love me only for his sake . "

" Vain fears, vain wishes, how they rise
At once, and I have dreamt of change,
My mother warned me to be wise,
And said he might grow great and strange .
The way is steep yet he will climb
Though every helping bough shall break ;
But had the toll and long the time,
Would it were briefer for his sake . "

Another step came up the stair,
The dreamer turned to work again,—
But ask ye was he worth her care,
The absent love she mused on then ?
I say not, yet when life and hope
Had lost and won him many a stake,
Upon her dreams the step came up
That came no longer for her sake .

Our readers have thus, in the matter of almanacs, already a choice between the grave and gay—or may make a pleasant combination by purchasing both.

Analogy and Contrasts; or, Comparative Sketches of France and England. By the Author of 'Revelations of Russia,' &c. 2 vols. Newby.

MASTER of a hard, rotund, and dashing style—well acquainted by travel and intercourse with the various populations of Europe—tolerably versed in historical and statistical science—possessing a coarse, telling humour, rhetorical and picturesque power in the grouping of his ideas, and a vein of philosophical speculation—the author of 'Revelations of Russia' and 'Eastern Europe' could hardly write a book, on even a hacknied topic, without throwing into it some elements of popularity. The work before us, however, like other works by the same writer, has too much the appearance of having been written with an eye to the publisher rather than to the public. It suggests more the idea of a piece of taskwork, in which a certain number of pages were to be filled with bold dashing composition, than a great intention thoroughly conceived and clearly worked out. No one thought is presented completely. There is, as usual, no lack of speculation—no absence of aphorism or dogmatism. Several political principles are discussed incidentally,—but none are artistically evolved, defined, and established. Many points are mooted,—but without system, co-ordination, or sequence. There is, in fact, about the volumes a waste of wealth,—but very little real power. For want of order in the arrangement of his thoughts, the same facts and inferences are repeated again and again by the writer, until the tautology exhausts the reader's patience. On the subject of "England and France"—where the majority

of his readers meet him on ground which they know almost as well as himself—this is intolerable. With North-Eastern Europe the case was somewhat different:—there he might calculate upon possessing information not generally accessible. France is as well known to Englishmen as England—to southern Englishmen perhaps better. The authorities on which the author's conclusions are based are in the hands of most persons engaged in political and social studies. Therefore, if any new principle could be logically drawn from these well-understood facts, and lucidly expressed, one distinct enunciation of it would have sufficed. Its reiteration, without cause and without addition, is a weakness—a loss of power to the writer, a loss of time to the reader. The book, indeed, seems to have been written in a hurry, and printed off almost without revision. It wants unity of form as well as entirety of purpose. The two volumes consist, in fact, of three distinct works—written at different times, printed and *paged* separately, and united only by the binder. The main body of the book, which is said to have been written last year, is described—though very imperfectly—by the title. There are about a hundred pages on the "National Defence" controversy, which seems to be a reprint or remainder of a pamphlet. About an equal number of pages have been added since the Revolution of February; in which, of course, a new scene is opened, new ideas are upon the theatre, old combinations have been swept away—and the body of the work, speculations on a departed order of things, is rendered useless!

Had the author to sit down and write his book now, he would write it very differently. The conjectures of 1847 have little interest in presence of the realities of 1848. Why then publish them?—is the question which naturally arises. The writer claims to have foreseen the fall of the monarchy of France,—and prints to substantiate his claim. He might have achieved this without sending into the world a book which in a large portion of its contents is too late, and in the remainder too early. We feel bound to add, that his publication affords no proof, beyond his own assertion, that it was written before the Revolution,—and that assertion would have been as credible without the book as his voucher. Had 'Analogy and Contrasts' been written *after* the Revolution, much that it contains would have been omitted,—much would have been modified—still more would have been added. Now, we hold, that though the book was written, but not published, before the revolutions of February and March changed the relations of not only France and England but of all the European powers, these omissions, modifications, and additions ought to have been made before it was offered to the world; for, be it understood, the book is not historical, but polemical, revelational,—and its value depends, therefore, upon being new and true to the facts of the hour. These, in many parts, it is not. The France of the writer's contemplation is gone out of existence as completely as the German empire and the kingdom of Grenada:—and to a large extent this fact vitiates his argument.

We make these observations with regret;—because we think well of the materials of the work. Severely condensed, and thrown into a somewhat modified form, we believe they would form a popular and useful work.

Few Englishmen (though all know France, more or less) have had the opportunity of seeing, knowing, judging it as our author has—according to his statement. He has a keen sense of the folly of pronouncing on the characters of men and institutions upon superficial

acquaintance,—and not every one can satirize it so pleasantly.—

" You are quite right, there is very little known upon your country; I am thinking of writing a book upon the subject myself," said a French resident, self-sufficiently to the author.—" Indeed, then you are well acquainted with England?—*Oui, je m'en flatte. Je connais l'Angleterre à fond. J'y suis depuis quinze ans.* I flatter myself that I do know England; I have resided in it fifteen years." * * * " Where have you resided during these fifteen years?—*Always in the capital.*"—Then you have seen nothing of the country?—*On the contrary, I have seen enough of it, both by land and water. I came up to London once from Dover by coach, and on two distinct occasions I have sailed and steamed up and down the Thames, going to and returning from France.*"—And you conceive that sufficient experience of rural life?—*A sufficient sample.* There can be no great differences in rural life, your peasants wear white smock frocks, and ours wear blue. Your people consume gin and beer, ours drink wine and brandy, but rustics are everywhere alike,—heavy, stupid, ignorant and mean. The country is everywhere the same—*un endroit où l'on cache ses guenilles, où l'on fait des économies d'esprit et d'argent.* Uninteresting and prosaic enough in France, the super-addition of English dullness cannot much change or improve it. I have beside made many little Sunday trips.—" You have perhaps been to Blackwall by the railway?—*Effectivement, j'ai fait plusieurs fois ce petit voyage,* replied the Frenchman triumphantly.—Then there can be no doubt that the book you are so well qualified to write will prove exceedingly amusing."

Dipping into these rambling pages here and there, we borrow the following incident which befel our author.—

" One summer evening, the writer,—hot, weary and uncommunicatively disposed,—entered a crowded *café* in the south of France to find shelter from the rain. An individual of peculiarly unprepossessing appearance whom he had already noticed, seated himself at the same table with the obvious intention of entering into conversation. He was a man of some five-and-twenty years of age with a countenance sallow by dissipation, rendered sinister by expression of the eye and disfigured by a scar. His dress was half civil and half military, consisted of a rusty black frock coat buttoned up to his chin, of a red foraging cap, and either of red or red-stained trousers. Judging him to be a police spy from the manner in which he seemed to be avoided, the writer took up his ice and newspaper and retreated to a small triangular table in the corner which only admitted of one occupant, thus frustrating the intended sociability of the stranger. After the lapse of about an hour, the rain being over, he quitted the *café*; when the individual in question rose, followed him into the street, and stepping abruptly forward, thus addressed him:—*Monsieur, permettez que je vous dise, que votre figure me déplaît souverainement.*"—" Sir, permit me to observe." (The remainder of this phrase which literally ran 'your personal appearance is supremely displeasing to me' can only be conveyed to the intelligence of the few who do not understand French by the vernacular in which it would be rendered) 'that the cut of your gib is not to my liking.'—" Monsieur," replied the writer, '*j'en suis désolé.*'—" I am shocked to hear it."—" What," said the stranger, whose hand was already in his pocket, 'Is that all you have to answer me?'—" That is all."—" But, Sir, I meant to insult you; here is my card."—" I do not want your card."—" But have you no sentiment d'honneur? Won't you fight?"—" No, Sir, I never fight with strangers; if you annoy me any further I shall simply knock you down."—" Your answer is brutal, but I believe you are the stronger man. The fact is, I am weary of life and I would as soon have perished in a duel as through suicide. Good day, Sir, I find I was mistaken in you; no matter, a leap into the river is after all quite as easy," and with these words the hero of the red cap walked away. The circumstance and the manner of the man so far however roused the curiosity of the writer that he was induced to call him back.—" Stay, my friend, you see I won't fight and I won't be insulted; but as you addressed a gratuitous obser-

vation to me, just excuse my asking you whether you think that the fact of your being weary of your own life justifies you in jeopardizing the life of a stranger?"—"Perhaps not, but it is very well for you to talk in cold blood. The waiter looked askance at me, when I took shelter, because I did not order anything. I hated those who did. I hate the world, and I am weary of it. I thought that you did not know me and would fight me—to kill or to be killed, what matter? Besides I have saved several lives, I have a right to take one or two. I have been an officer—a man of honour—I have served my country,—now do you understand?" and throwing open his coat he showed that he was without shirt or waistcoat, and bursting into tears was about to walk away. On subsequent inquiry, his story proved to be strictly true."

The following is a part—the pith—of the summing up of the national "analogies and contrasts." Some of its points might be challenged; but substantially it is acceptable.—

"The Englishman is passionately attached to liberty, the Frenchman to equality. Coincidentally, though not consequently, the Frenchman is comparatively indifferent to individual liberty, the Englishman to social inequality. Not consequently, because the American branch of the Anglo-Saxon race affords the spectacle of a people who unite the British love of individual freedom to the French impatience of social superiority. The Frenchman at his personal inconvenience patriotically prefers the glory and the power of his country to its well-being; the Englishman rationally values the solid prosperity of his country, by which he directly and individually profits, above its reputation or aggrandizement. More Frenchmen in the writer's belief would die to vindicate the honour of France or extend its glory than to assert its liberties; but he has no doubt that more Englishmen would lay down their lives in defence of their country's freedom than to extend its power or give lustre to its name. With these ends respectively in view, the Frenchman has a natural predilection for centralization, the Briton for self-government. The Englishman has always been attached to liberty of the press, the Frenchman to liberty of speech. No penalties or acts of parliament have ever been able to prevent the Englishman from writing or the Frenchman from speaking what he thought. When the pillory and the gibbet were the meed of certain religious and political opinions in England, they were pertinaciously advocated with more boldness than the French press in the reign of Louis Philippe venture to exhibit, whilst on the other hand, the Empire in its most despotic and the monarchy in its most bigoted ante-revolutionary days could never tongue-tie their subjects or prevent in French society the enunciation of political and religious sentiments, of which the utterance is conventionally forbidden in London or in Edinburgh at the present time. The Englishman is unfortunately insensible, the Frenchman painfully sensitive to ridicule. Wit in England is powerless to explode an abuse, expose an error, or abash a fool; but the laugh of folly will frequently in France disarm: genius of its power and divert wisdom from its path. In religion the tendency of the Anglo-Saxon is to fanaticism, that of the Frenchman to superstition. Levity is hence apt to characterize religion with the French, and hypocrisy to disfigure it with the Anglo-Saxon. The French adopt belief or infidelity without more thought than they bestow on the fashion of a garment, and you are never sure that when reflection comes, the pious man will not die an infidel, the infidel a bigot. The contemplation of religious mysteries is on the contrary almost universal with the Anglo-Saxons, and not only tinctures the national mind with ascetic gloom, but affords a sure basis for the imposition of unscrupulous speculators. The Englishman piques himself on originality, which if it leave the flight of genius unfettered towards the sublime, permits the descent of folly unchecked into the absurd. The Frenchman is kept within the trammels of precedent by the fear of ridicule. He dreads as much the insinuation that he is unlike everybody else, as the Englishman the charge of want of respectability; and of the most injurious epithets in his vituperative vocabulary is the term '*quel original!*' which when—as usually—applied to an Englishman only gratifies his pride."

But to what end are these comparisons made? To settle the points of natural history or of national character? The writer has an object beyond. He is a politician, and would be a propagandist. He is desirous of showing that the world is given up to the Frank and the Anglo-Saxon to civilize and redeem—Europe to the first, all the rest to the second; that each race and country is peculiarly organized and fitted for its assigned share of the work; that upon their harmony depends the future progress and civilization of mankind. On these fundamental propositions are based important rules for our political guidance. We ought to abandon the old policy of intervention—to give up, or greatly modify, our diplomacy in European courts—to leave the peoples of the Continent to fight their own battles and to form their own institutions—above all, to forget our old rivalry with France, and to accept cordially its institutional and territorial growth whatever that may be. The hostility of the two great Western states is necessarily a mournful fact for Europe; and the utmost efforts of wise progressists should be devoted to the establishment of such an understanding betwixt them as no accident can have the power to interrupt. This may be done only on England making the first advances. France is smarting under the sense of a grievous wrong,—not so much of the memory of Waterloo, which very few can now remember, as of the curtailment of her country. The France of the treaties of Vienna is not the grand old historic France—not the France of Louis XV. North and east, strangers are encamped upon her soil; and this fact, which England caused, the blood of a proud and military people will not accept. These are our author's opinions. He says, moreover, that these excised provinces are inevitably destined to be re-united to their parent (unless England interfere to prevent it) soon,—and this event he labours to prepare his countrymen to acknowledge when it shall occur. All real nations, he avers, would gain by that consolidation of France: dynasties only would lose,—and the age of dynastic wars is past. We cannot follow him at length through his argument; but it is put forcibly,—and the reader, whether he agrees with it or not, will find it suggestive.

A considerable portion of the second volume consists of sketches of the public men of France; and some of those whom recent events have brought prominently before the world are painted more or less elaborately. From these we shall select a few passages. Lamartine is painted in glowing colours, and styled the Milton-Washington of France. His portrait is too well known to be repeated here. We give one little less celebrated.—

"Imposing in aspect, tall of stature, with lofty forehead, aquiline nose, classical features, voice fitted to convey the thoughts of a gigantic mind and give utterance to the feelings of a heart as capacious—the elder Arago may be nightly heard in the chamber of venal deputies and jobbing place-men, exposing the abuses of government with inflexible logic and practical argument, unexpected in one wrapped in abstruse contemplation—busied in measuring the flight of stars, in penetrating the arcana of nature and collating its eternal laws. At other times his denunciations peal with a vehement eloquence no less strange in the philosopher whose range of thought has been in the passionless domain of mathematical and abstract calculation. His biography would be a romance, if the term romantic be applicable to acquirements and a life so classical. Selected at the age of twenty by the Bureau des Longitudes to carry the meridian of Paris to the south of Spain, he spent six months on a bleak mountain top to watch the opportunity of an observation. Arrested as a spy, detained as a prisoner, and captured as a bondsman, in the course of his mission, neither peril nor priva-

tion deterred from the prosecution of his scientific pursuits. Like Archimedes, fatally absorbed in the solution of a problem amidst the sack of Syracuse, so Arago, a captive at Rosas and Palamos, refused to escape—not to leave behind him his instruments and the results of his labours. When, years afterwards, the Algerian expedition was in contemplation, and ministers, admirals, and generals were at fault, Arago was the only man in France who could determine the facilities or difficulties of landing, and describe the surrounding country. Taken and enslaved, in the course of his researches, by the Algerine corsairs, who obliged him to serve as interpreter on board their ships, his observant eye had neglected nothing, and after so long a period his memory enabled him, with undeviating accuracy, to give that information which consuls, merchants and traders could not furnish, whose lives had been spent in Algiers, or passing between that state and their mother-country. The Aragos, like true citizens of the old Greek republics, have been not only ever first to stigmatize the encroachments of authority, foremost to protect the oppressed, and vindicate the rights of their fellow-countrymen—but, in the hour of armed resistance, ever prompt to identify themselves with that movement which failure would have made rebellion—to draw the sword and fling away the scabbard."

Another.—

"The Abbé Lamennais, now advanced in years, is a man of unbounded benevolence and unquestionable genius. Both may be read in the expression of his deep thoughtful eye, in the expansion of his venerable meditative brow; both are breathed in every page of the eloquence he has left on record. Like the sages of old, he collected around him, in the modern Athens, followers and disciples who picked up with veneration, in familiar intercourse, the precepts flowing from his lips. The Abbé Lacordaire and the youthful Count Montalembert, amongst many others who have since risen to distinction, adopted the views of Lamennais and joined him in their exposition in the *Avenir* newspaper, which occasioned a strange consternation amongst the French clergy of the old school. But the Abbé Lamennais was not satisfied with the ominous silence of embarrassed Rome; his enthusiastic temperament would not wait to be attacked or condemned, but repairing with his two companions to the eternal city, he forced on the sovereign pontiff a decision. In advance of his time—at least at Rome—Pius IX. would probably have pressed Lamennais to his heart; the narrow bigotry of Gregory XVI. and of the sacred college, blighted the prospects of the pilgrims with unqualified censure. His fellow-travellers accepted with penitent resignation that decree, but refusing to conform, and preferring conscientious isolation, Lamennais separated from that church which has since mourned over his secession as over the fall of a lost angel. * * His '*Paroles d'un Croquant*,' or '*Profession of a Believer*,' was a moving and poetical exposition of the faith of what then appeared an anomaly unheard of—republican catholicism. * * Recently his time has been principally occupied in philosophic labours and research; but it may be doubted whether he has not seriously mistaken his vocation. Lamennais is an enthusiast and a good man, whose bent of mind seems rather imaginative than analytical enough to disentangle those speculative mazes in which so many intellects have gone astray. But neglecting in the pursuit of wisdom and in ardent cravings after truth, the natural powers of a great poet, he has disdained the reputation he might have gathered, and hence in his retirement is fading from the memories of men whom in a great measure his spirit still inspires."

We have a glimpse of the president, Marrast,—with an anecdote which may be interpreted against as well as for him.—

"Fitted indeed, to play the part of a tribune of the people, Marrast—one of those condemned in the complot d'Avril, and assisted in his escape by Etienne Arago—is distinguished as perhaps the most effective writer on the daily press. For some years past, only the leaders of the *Débats* could compare with the vigorous articles in the *National*, from the pen of this impetuous republican. Marrast has been supposed to be a republican of the old school, prone to revolutionary violence, and animated by a fanatical hatred of Great Britain; but from the following anecdote it may be inferred how far his opinions have

undergone modification, or what share should be assigned to party tactics in the expression of political feeling. When the British alliance was invoked by the Doctrinaires, as a guarantee of peace and as peculiarly identified with their ascendancy, the whole of the opposition affected Anglophobia, and involved Great Britain in their hostility to the government. The *National*, at that time distinguished as more invectively violent than any other paper against the English, breathed nothing but inextinguishable hatred against the British name. The very day on which one of the most virulent of these diatribes had been published, a foreigner, meeting with Marrast, complacently alluded to its sentiments, but was surprised to hear the journalist reply:—"These things must not be taken literally—this is a mere attack on our ministry—and if you think that we desire a rupture with England, a country in full career of progress, I abuse myself."

We have room for one other sketch only—that of the Junius of France.—

"Less distinguished as a senator, because—diffident of his own eloquence—he rarely speaks, is the *Vicomte de Cormenin*—alone more feared and hated by the king, court, and corrupt majority, than all the opposition. It is not when he ascends the tribune that they tremble, but when he snatches up his pen, which sears, like a red-hot iron, susceptibilities too hardened in depravity to wince at the inscription of characters less incisive. The *Vicomte de Cormenin*, who publishes under the pseudonym of *Timon*, is only a pamphleteer, as *Junius* was only a letter-writer, and *Béranger*—the sharpest thorn in the side of the restoration—a mere *chansonnier*. But when one of *Timon's* pamphlets is advertised in gigantic letters by the bill-stickers throughout Paris, the advisers of royalty suffer the intuitive dismay which seized on *Belshazzar* at the writing on the wall—and the majesty of France sickens in recollecting how that inexorable pen dashed from its closing grasp the appanage it thought secured. Tens of thousands rush to read, and the rapid circulation of *Timon*—less bitterly invective than *Junius*, but leaving a sting no less profound—renders his pamphlets even more effective than the letters of the memorable unknown. *Monsieur de Cormenin*, somewhere in summing up the wits of the French chambers, reckons only *Thiers*, *Dupin* and *Mauguin*, modestly omitting himself, more eminently distinguished in that capacity than any of the three. Devoting with intense singleness of purpose his powers of satire and his wit entirely to political ends, he does not complacently scatter his brilliant emanations to gratify a puerile vanity—but the idle nothings which others cast away become each in his hands a pebble from the brook, whirled from his unerring sling into the front of a Goliath. For a government—in the wrong—one single such opponent as *Cormenin*, with a people so dangerously sensitive to ridicule as the French, is a fair ministerial argument in favour of a September law, or an *excécutoire*, a system of detached forts."

In these extracts the reader will perceive the force of the objections already urged. At the same time, we must say that we have barely indicated the wealth of the material contained in the volumes. We have not touched the statistics,—and only briefly one of the main arguments. We would recommend the writer to revise, condense, and correct his work up to the present time. The result might be, as we have said, a book which the public would receive with pleasure and advantage.

Lectures on the Nature and Use of Money: delivered before the Members of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution in February and March, 1848. By John Gray. Longman & Co.

It is very difficult to be angry with a man who gives such undeniable proofs of his sincerity as are given by Mr. Gray. Here is one of the handsomest octavo volumes we ever remember to have met with—fine paper, admirable type, and superabundance of margin, extending to 350 pages—literally given away by the author to the extent of 1,200 copies. The objects of

Mr. Gray's bounty have been selected in a most catholic spirit. He has rained down his treatises with a most impartial magnanimity upon peers and members of the House of Commons, upon bishops and laymen, upon doctors, and members of the metropolitan and editors of the provincial press,—and generally upon almost everybody who is supposed to read and has been convicted of writing. And this is not all: Mr. Gray not only presents you with a book,—he accompanies the present by a challenge. He announces that a prize of one hundred guineas will be given to the lucky and prodigious person who shall confute the doctrines of the volume; and an appendix embodies, with all the fulness of an Act of Parliament, the conditions of the competition and the machinery of the judgment. Mr. Gray has several times challenged the *Times* newspaper; and he has also thrust a copy of his book into the hands of the Provisional Government of France,—who, as they have made no reply thereto, it is reasonable to suppose have been struck speechless by the gift. Altogether, Mr. Gray is the *Bob Acres* of literature. *Sheridan's* immortal squire used to kill a man a week,—but that was a prowess very inferior to the valour of this new *Currency Samson*.

Seriously, however, there can be no question of Mr. Gray's sincerity,—and as little of uncertainty as to his zeal: and these, we venture to think, will be the two circumstances which, in the estimation of most people, will save the efforts of Mr. Gray from the decided disapprobation that ought to stigmatize every exhibition of pertinacious conceit and pragmatism upon the time and patience of strangers. For the benefit of those who have not been honoured with the benefaction of Mr. Gray's book, we beg to say that the pith of the whole plan is to be gathered from the 108th and some dozen subsequent pages. The discovery consists in a standard bank and as much paper money as shall always represent the total value of all the commodities in all the shops and warehouses of the country. Upon this basis it is the system of Mr. Gray that the equality in nominal amount between the money and the goods would perpetually insure that demand should never lag behind production; and hence that by means of this simple expedient—we use Mr. Gray's own words—we should "annihilate almost every evil with which this country is afflicted." The fundamental idea is not new,—but it is exhibited under somewhat new combinations. At the risk of being placed upon Mr. Gray's *index-expurgatorius*, we must beg to suggest that after all it is not mere money which makes the *marego*,—and especially not mere paper money. The prosperity of a people depends upon their profitable industry; and Mr. Gray can be at no loss to find examples where an easy access to new land, cheapness of living, and a full demand for the services of every member of the society arising out of the disproportion between the work to be done and the number of workers, have rendered nations prosperous without paper money and populous without pauperism.

The History of Pendennis; his Fortunes and Misfortunes, his Friends and his Greatest Enemy. By W. M. Thackeray. Bradbury & Evans.

Mr. Thackeray's periodically-published novel of 'Vanity Fair' has placed him in the very first rank among writers of modern fiction:—the commencement of a new serial from his hand demands, therefore, according to precedents established by ourselves, a formal introduction to our readers. In making this introduction, as we have said on former similar occasions, we

would not attempt to exhibit our own sagacity by anticipating the author's undeveloped intentions even if we happened to guess at them—which we do not. Mr. Thackeray has kept his secret thus far; and we doubt greatly if critics more adventurous than ourselves will be able from examination of this brick to construct a rough model of his intended edifice—or to force him thus early into a change of design for the purpose of avoiding the charge of being a plagiarist from the Press.

In 'Vanity Fair'—which turns out ultimately to be perhaps the most remarkable book of fiction that late years have produced—Mr. Thackeray contrived also to escape the foresight of the critics—and in a way less creditable to himself than on the present occasion. In the early numbers of that work he kept the secret at once of his plans—if he had any—and of his power. So poor were the beginnings of the tale, that the subsequent numbers ran a great chance of being thrown aside on the faith of the early ones. The book, indeed, with the exception of the one presiding idea and character of Rebecca, conveyed irresistibly the notion of its taking accidental shape from the moods and circumstances of its progress,—and presents accordingly some eccentricities which would have been avoided by a preconceived design. But not only did the scheme seem to be experimental, the tools also appeared to be tentative. It was interesting to see how the writer's power grew and accumulated by its own exercise. Number after number of the work seemed to present a new strength drawn out of and nourished by the strength of that which preceded. No reader could have pictured the final mastery of hand from the feeble workmanship that laid the first inadequate foundations of that remarkable book.

But the present work begins well. There is, so far as the impression can be conveyed by manner, a suggestion here of preconceived design; and we recognize the hand that accomplished itself in 'Vanity Fair' laying in the grounds on which that design is to be wrought out. We will content ourselves with giving our readers a few strongly outlined portraits of personages who are to figure in the future story—of which outlines its incidents are to be the filling-up. And first, let us introduce to them Major Pendennis—a sketch from club life.—

"One fine morning in the full London season, Major Arthur Pendennis came over from his lodgings, according to his custom, to breakfast at a certain Club in Pall Mall, of which he was a chief ornament. As he was one of the finest judges of wine in England, and a man of active, dominating, and inquiring spirit, he has been very properly chosen to be a member of the Committee of this Club, and indeed was almost the manager of the institution; and the stewards and waiters bowed before him as reverentially as to a Duke or a Field-Marshal. At a quarter past ten the Major invariably made his appearance in the best blacked boots in all London, with a checked morning cravat that never was rumpled until dinner time, a buff waistcoat which bore the crown of his sovereignty on the buttons, and linen so spotless that Mr. Brummel himself asked the name of his laundress, and would probably have employed her had not misfortunes compelled that great man to fly the country. Pendennis's coat, his white gloves, his whiskers, his very cane, were perfect of their kind as specimens of the costume of a military man *en retraite*. At a distance, or seeing his back merely, you would have taken him to be not more than thirty years old: it was only by a nearer inspection that you saw the factitious nature of his rich brown hair, and that there were a few crow's-feet round about the somewhat faded eyes of his handsome mottled face. His nose was of the Wellington pattern. His hands and wrists were beautifully long and white. On the latter he wore handsome gold buttons given to him

by his Royal Highness the Duke of York, and on the others more than one elegant ring, the chief and largest of them being emblazoned with the famous arms of Pendennis. He always took possession of the same table in the same corner of the room, from which nobody ever now thought of ousting him. One or two mad wags and wild fellows had in former days, and in freak or bravado, endeavoured twice or thrice to deprive him of this place; but there was a quiet dignity in the Major's manner as he took his seat at the next table, and surveyed the interlopers, which rendered it impossible for any man to sit and breakfast under his eye; and that table—by the fire, and yet near the window—became his own. His letters were laid out there in expectation of his arrival, and many was the young fellow about town who looked with wonder at the number of those notes, and at the seals and franks which they bore. If there was any question about etiquette, society, who was married to whom, of what age such and such a duke was, Pendennis was the man to whom every one appealed. Marchionesses used to drive up to the Club, and leave notes for him, or fetch him out. He was perfectly affable. The young men liked to walk with him in the Park or down Pall Mall; for he touched his hat to everybody, and every other man he met was a lord. The Major sat down at his accustomed table then, and while the waiters went to bring him his toast and his hot newspaper, he surveyed his letters through his gold double eye-glass. He carried it so gaily, you would hardly have known it was spectacles in disguise, and examined one pretty note after another, and laid them by in order. There were large solemn dinner cards, suggestive of three courses and heavy conversation; there were neat little confidential notes, conveying female entreaties; there was a note on thick official paper from the Marquis of Steyne, telling him to come to Richmond to a little party at the Star and Garter, and speak French, which language the Major possessed very perfectly; and another from the Bishop of Ealing and Mrs. Trail, requesting the honour of Major Pendennis's company at Ealing House, all of which letters Pendennis read gracefully, and with the more satisfaction, because Glowry, the Scotch surgeon, breakfasting opposite to him, was looking on, and hating him for having so many invitations, which nobody ever sent to Glowry. These perused, the Major took out his pocket-book to see on what days he was disengaged, and which of these many hospitable calls he could afford to accept or decline. He threw over Cutler, the East India Director, in Baker Street, in order to dine with Lord Steyne and the little French party at the Star and Garter—the Bishop he accepted, because, though the dinner was slow, he liked to dine with Bishops—and so went through his list and disposed of them according to his fancy or interest. Then he took his breakfast and looked over the paper, the gazette, the births and deaths, and the fashionable intelligence, to see that his name was down among the guests at my Lord So-and-so's fête, and in the intervals of these occupations carried on cheerful conversation with his acquaintances about the room.

A companion pair will make our readers acquainted with the father and mother of the hero of the coming tale. We are scarcely justified perhaps in giving so much space as is demanded to the former of these—seeing that the old man is laid away so early as the present number in the Abbey Church of Clavering St. Mary's; but his character is amongst the elements that go to the formation of that of the hero—and the lady is scarcely to be sketched but by the side of her husband. Her personality is hardly to be made out but by reflections from his presence or from his memory; and we must say that Mrs. Pendennis, introduced with much sweetness, is in danger, it may be feared, of turning out as great a piece of insipidity as Amelia, the unlovable, in 'Vanity Fair.'

"Early in the Regency of George the Magnificent, there lived in a small town in the west of England, called Clavering, a gentleman whose name was Pendennis. There were those alive who remembered having seen his name painted on a board, which was surmounted by a gilt pestle and mortar

over the door of a very humble little shop in the city of Bath, where Mr. Pendennis exercised the profession of apothecary and surgeon; and where he not only attended gentlemen in their sick-rooms, and ladies at the most interesting periods of their lives, but would condescend to sell a brown-paper plaster to a farmer's wife across the counter,—or to vend tooth-brushes, hair-powder, and London perfumery. For these facts a few folks at Clavering could vouch, where people's memories were more tenacious, perhaps, than they are in a great bustling metropolis.—And yet that little apothecary who sold a stray customer a pennyworth of salts, or a more fragrant cake of Windsor soap, was a gentleman of good education, and of as old a family as any in the whole county of Somerset. He had a Cornish pedigree which carried the Pendennises up to the time of the Druids,—and who knows how much farther back? They had intermarried with the Normans at a very late period of their family existence, and they were related to all the great families of Wales and Brittany. Pendennis had had a piece of University education too, and might have pursued that career with great honour, but that in his second year at Cambridge his father died insolvent, and poor Pen was obliged to betake himself to the pestle and apron. He always detested the trade, and it was only necessity, and the offer of his mother's brother, a London apothecary of low family, into which Pendennis's father had demeaned himself by marrying, that forced John Pendennis into so odious a calling. He quickly after his apprenticeship parted from the coarse-minded practitioner his relative, and set up for himself at Bath with his modest medical ensign. He had for some time a hard struggle with poverty; and it was all he could do to keep the shop and its gilt ornaments in decent repair, and his bed-ridden mother in comfort: but Lady Ribstone happening to be passing to the Rooms with an intoxicated Irish chairman who bumped her ladyship up against Pen's very door-post, and drove his chair-pole through the handsomest pink-bottle in the surgeon's window, alighted screaming from her vehicle, and was accommodated with a chair in Mr. Pendennis's shop, where she was brought round with cinnamon and sal-volatile. Mr. Pendennis's manners were so uncommonly gentlemanlike and soothing, that her ladyship, the wife of Sir Pepin Ribstone, of Codlingbury, in the county of Somerset, Bart., appointed her preserver, as she called him, apothecary to her person and family, which was very large. Master Ribstone coming home for the Christmas holidays from Eton, over-ate himself and had a fever, in which Mr. Pendennis treated him with the greatest skill and tenderness. In a word, he got the good graces of the Codlingbury family, and from that day began to prosper. The good company of Bath patronised him, and amongst the ladies especially he was beloved and admired. First his humble little shop became a smart one: then he discarded the selling of tooth-brushes and perfumery, as unworthy of a gentleman of an ancient lineage; then he shut up the shop altogether, and only had a little surgery attended by a genteel young man: then he had a gig with a man to drive him; and, before her exit from this world, his poor old mother had the happiness of seeing from her bed-room window to which her chair was rolled, her beloved John step into a close carriage of his own, a one-horse carriage it is true, but with the arms of the family of Pendennis handsomely emblazoned on the panels. 'What would Arthur say now?' she asked, speaking of a younger son of her's—'who never so much as once came to see my dearest Johnny through all the time of his poverty and struggles?'—'Captain Pendennis is with his regiment in India, mother,' Mr. Pendennis remarked, 'and, if you please, I wish you would not call me Johnny before the young man—before Mr. Parkins.'—Presently the day came when she ceased to call her son by the name of Johnny, or by any other title of endearment or affection; and his house was very lonely without that kind though querulous voice. He had his night-bell altered and placed in the room in which the good old lady had grumbled for many a long year, and he slept in the great large bed there. He was upwards of forty years old when these events befell; before the war was over; before George the Magnificent came to the throne; before this history indeed: but what is a gentleman

without his pedigree? Pendennis, by this time, had his handsomely framed and glazed, and hanging up in his drawing-room between the pictures of Codlingbury House in Somersetshire, and St. Boniface's College, Cambridge, where he had passed the brief and happy days of his early manhood. As for the pedigree he had taken it out of a trunk, as Sterne's officer called for his sword, now that he was a gentleman and could show it. About the time of Mrs. Pendennis's demise, another of her son's patients likewise died at Bath; that virtuous woman, old Lady Pontypool, daughter of Reginald twelfth Earl of Bareacres, and by consequence great grand aunt to the present Earl, and widow of John second Lord Pontypool, and likewise of the Reverend Jonas Wales, of the Armageddon Chapel, Clifton. For the last five years of her life her ladyship had been attended by Miss Helen Thistlewood, a very distant relative of the noble house of Bareacres, before mentioned, and daughter of Lieutenant R. Thistlewood, R.N., killed at the Battle of Copenhagen. Under Lady Pontypool's roof Miss Thistlewood found a comfortable shelter, as far as boarding and lodging went, but suffered under such an infernal tyranny as only women can inflict on, or bear from, one another: the Doctor, who paid his visits to my Lady Pontypool at least twice a day, could not but remark the angelical sweetness and kindness with which the young lady bore her elderly relative's insults; and it was, as they were going in the fourth mourning coach to attend her ladyship's venerated remains to Bath Abbey, where they now repose, that he looked at her sweet pale face and resolved upon putting a certain question to her, the very nature of which made his pulse beat ninety, at least. He was older than she by more than twenty years, and at no time the most ardent of men. Perhaps he had had a love affair in early life which he had to strangle—perhaps all early love affairs ought to be strangled or drowned, like so many blind kittens; well, at three-and-forty he was a collected quiet little gentleman in black stockings with a bald head, and a few days after the ceremony he called to see her, and, as he felt her pulse, he kept hold of her hand in his, and asked her where she was going to live now that the Pontypool family had come down upon the property, which was being nailed into boxes, and packed into hamper, and saddled up with haybands, and buried in straw, and locked under three keys in green-baize plate-chests, and carted away under the eyes of poor Miss Helen,—he asked her where she was going to live finally.—Her eyes filled with tears, and she said she did not know. She had a little money. The old lady had left her a thousand pounds, indeed; and she would go into a boarding-house or into a school: in fine, she did not know where. Then Pendennis, looking into her pale face, and keeping hold of her cold little hand, asked her if she would come and live with him? He was old compared to—to so blooming a young lady as Miss Thistlewood, (Pendennis was of the grave old complimentary school of gentlemen and apothecaries,) but he was of good birth, and, he flattered himself, of good principles and temper. His prospects were good, and daily mending. He was alone in the world, and had need of a kind and constant companion, whom it would be the study of his life to make happy; in a word, he recited to her a little speech, which he had composed that morning in bed, and rehearsed and perfected in his carriage, as he was coming to wait upon the young lady.—Perhaps if he had had an early love-passion, she too had one day hoped for a different lot than to be wedded to a little gentleman who rapped his teeth and smiled artificially, who was laboriously polite to the butler as he slid up stairs into the drawing-room, and profusely civil to the lady's-maid, who waited at the bed-room door; for whom her old patroness used to ring as for a servant, and who came with even more eagerness, who got up stories, as he sent in draughts, for his patient's amusement and his own profit: perhaps she would have chosen a different man—but she knew, on the other hand, how worthy Pendennis was, how prudent, how honourable; how good he had been to his mother, and constant in his care of her; and the upshot of this interview was, that she, blushing very much, made Pendennis an extremely low curtsy, and asked leave to—to consider his very kind proposal."

The hero of the piece is a character not yet fully formed—and which we suppose has to be moulded by events ere it contributes largely to mould them. A slight sketch of him at school is all, therefore, which we will offer by way of introduction.

"Arthur Pendennis's schoolfellows at the Greyfriars School state that, as a boy, he was in no ways remarkable either as a dunce or as a scholar. He did, in fact, just as much as was required of him, and no more. If he was distinguished for anything it was for verse-writing: but was his enthusiasm ever so great, it stopped when he had composed the number of lines demanded by the regulations (unlike young Swettenham, for instance, who, with no more of poetry in his composition than Mr. Wakley, yet would bring up a hundred dreary hexameters to the master after a half-holiday; or young Fluxmore, who not only did his own verses, but all the fifth form's besides). He never read to improve himself out of school-hours, but, on the contrary, devoured all the novels, plays, and poetry, on which he could lay his hands. He never was flogged, but it was a wonder how he escaped the whipping-post. When he had money he spent it royally in tarts for himself and his friends; he has been known to disburse nine and sixpence out of ten shillings awarded to him in a single day. When he had no funds he went on tick. When he could get no credit he went without, and was almost as happy. He had been known to take a thrashing for a crony without saying a word; but a blow, ever so slight from a friend, would make him roar. To fighting he was averse from his earliest youth, as indeed to physic, the Greek Grammar, or any other exertion, and would engage in none of them, except at the last extremity. He seldom if ever told lies, and never bullied little boys. Those masters or seniors who were kind to him, he loved with boyish ardour. And though the doctor, when he did not know his Horace, or could not construe his Greek play, said that boy Pendennis was a disgrace to the school, a candidate for ruin in this world, and perdition in the next; a profligate who would most likely bring his venerable father to ruin and his mother to a dishonoured grave, and the like—yet as the doctor made use of these compliments to most of the boys in the place, (which has not turned out an unusual number of felons and pickpockets), little Pen, at first uneasy and terrified by these charges, became gradually accustomed to hear them; and he has not, in fact, either murdered his parents, or committed any act worthy of transportation or hanging up to the present day."

And now the reader is fairly prepared to launch into Mr. Thackeray's new tale.

Magnetic and Meteorological Observations made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in 1846. Murray.

THE increasing interest evinced in the sciences of Magnetism and Meteorology leads us to give a brief abstract of the salient features in the volume at the head of this article:—which, from its expensive nature and limited circulation, is not likely to be seen by our readers generally.

The magnetical and meteorological departments of our Royal Observatory have, under the superintendence and management of Mr. Airy, attained a degree of excellence that entitles the observations to be regarded as worthy of high credit. The instruments employed are of the best possible construction, and the observers are compelled to observe with mechanical regularity.

"In order," says Mr. Airy, "to give reasonable security to myself that the assistants have really been present at the time at which their observations profess to have been made, there is provided an instrument denominated the watchman's clock. It consists of a pendulum clock which has no hands, but of which the dial plate turns round; this dial plate has a number of radial pins fixed to its circumference, each of which can be pressed downwards (being held by the friction of a spring only) without disturbing the others. A lever is attached to the clock frame in such a position that, by means of a cord which passes from the lever through a hole in the clock-case to its outside, the lever can be made to press down that pin which happens to be uppermost and no other. The clock-case and clock face are securely

locked up. Thus the only power which an assistant possesses over the clock is that of pulling the cord and thereby depressing one pin; the dial plate then turns away, carrying that pin in its depressed state, and thus retains for about eleven hours the register of every time at which the assistant has pulled the cord. About one hour before returning to the same time (semi-diurnal reckoning), the bases of the pins begin to run upon a spiral inclined plane, by which they are forced up to their normal position before coming to that point at which the lever can act on them. It is the duty of each assistant, on making the prescribed observations, to pull the cord of the watchman's clock; and it is the duty of the first assistant to examine the face of the clock every morning, and to enter in a book an account of the pins which he finds depressed."

The instruments used in 1846 were,—for magnetism, a declination magnet, a horizontal force magnet, a vertical force magnet, a dipping needle; for meteorology, a standard barometer, dry and wet bulb and radiation thermometers, hygrometers, anemometers, rain gauges, actinometers. The electrical apparatus consisted of electrometers, galvanometers, a spark measurer, and a dry pile apparatus.—We proceed to give the most important results. The diurnal range of the declination magnet was smallest in January and largest in September. The diurnal range in summer was 15° 14', in winter 11° 53', and for the year 13° 34'. The diurnal range of the horizontal force magnet was largest in August and smallest in January. The diurnal range in summer was 0.004511, in winter 0.002688, and for the year 0.003600. The diurnal range of the vertical force magnet was smallest in January, February, and December, and largest in September. The diurnal range in summer was 0.001817 of the whole vertical force, in winter 0.001108, and for the year 0.001132. The mean magnetic dip for the year 1846, at 21°, was 68° 58' 6", and at 34° 68° 57' 6".

The mean height of the barometer in each month, deduced from two-hourly observations, was as follows:—January 29.671, February 29.849, March 29.655, April 29.589, May 29.779, June 29.866, July 29.757, August 29.777, September 29.824, October 29.516, November 29.821, December 29.697. The mean of all the monthly results is 29.733. Several tables are given illustrative of the influence of the moon on the barometer; from which is deduced that when the moon was at or near her mean distance and going from the earth, the mean height of the barometer was the greatest. The mean height of the barometer at or near new moon was 29.6160, at or near first quarter 29.7529, at or near full moon 29.8100, at or near third quarter 29.7254. It would seem, therefore, that the mean pressure of the atmosphere was greatest when the moon was about fourteen days old. The mean temperature in 1846 was:—in January 43° 6, February 44° 2, March 44° 9, April 49° 1, May 57° 1, June 67° 8, July 67° 2, August 65° 5, September 61° 7, October 51° 6, November 45° 2, December 32° 6; and the mean of the year 52° 5. The mean temperature of the dew point was:—in spring 42° 9, summer 56° 7, autumn 48° 4, winter 36° 7, and the year 46° 2. The mean degree of humidity in spring was 0.833, in summer 0.798, in autumn 0.884, in winter 0.894, and in the year 0.852. The mean weight of a cubic foot of air was 534.6 grains. The prevailing wind during the year was S.W., and the next in order of magnitude were S.S.W., W.S.W., N.N.W., and S. The amount of rain collected in each month by Osler's Anemometer, at 205 ft. 6 in. above the level of the sea was:—in January 0.85 in., February 0.67, March 0.20, April 1.81, May 0.95, June 0.36, July 1.14, August 2.98, September 0.98, October 2.43, November 0.66, December 0.43, and during the year 13.46. By the rain gauge, 177 feet above the sea, 22.63 in. were collected; by that 155 feet above the sea, 25.29 in.; and by that 35 feet above the sea, 24.37 in.—We may add that all these results are deduced from two-hourly observations made day and night.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Madeleine: a Tale of Auvergne, founded on Fact. By Julia Kavanagh.—There is a moment at which the most hopeful are apt to become discouraged: when, for instance, they consider the time wasted by full-grown men and women over astrological alman-

nacks, 'Prophecies of Orval,' and such strange books—not to speak of dream-theories as specious as if they were not the offspring of Ignorance! But should such depressing follies weigh too heavily on their spirits, they may take comfort from recollecting how large a portion of the literary workers in the present day devote themselves to the service and advancement of benevolence. In all branches of Art, among all conceivable ranks of gifted persons—he the creed or the occupation what it may—those who do not lend a hand, in some way or other, to the work of diminishing social misery and increasing social enjoyment are the exceptions, not the rule. Out of so much effort good must be evolved.—Miss Kavanagh's contribution is devoted to the biography of an Auvergne peasant girl who founded a hospital in her native village. Our authoress does not specify where the original of her heroine is to be found. Enough that such persons have lived, and such deeds as Madeleine's been accomplished. The traveller crossing the Arlberg is shown the Hospice founded by the exertions of Henry Findelkind, a peasant foundling, who not only by his own skill and energy saved the lives of some half a hundred wayfarers,—but who made a pilgrimage into foreign parts to collect the funds for the building at the top of the pass. Besides being warrantable as to fact, Miss Kavanagh's 'Madeleine' carries credibility with it, owing to the quiet skill with which the minute but unwearied progress of the good girl's benevolent endeavours is narrated:—

—Lay mite to mite,
And grain to grain of sand, and thread to thread,
And thus are coffers filled, and pyramids
Are builded, and gigantic cables spun,
On which may anchored navies safely ride.

Simple as is the above method, a certain interest and a forcible effect are produced whenever the author has power to work it out. Though from the beginning we knew that Jeannie Deans would arrive at the Queen's feet in time to obtain her sister's pardon, such knowledge interested not with the suspense excited by her adventures in the hiding-place of wicked Meg. Even so in the tale before us, though from the earliest announcement of her plan we were convinced that Madeleine would get her hospital built, there was no avoiding being perplexed and discouraged,—with so much cleverness has Miss Kavanagh described the hindrances and disappointments over which her heroine slowly triumphed. The tale is eminently fitted for the perusal of the young:—let the comment of their instructor in political economy take what cautionary form it will.

Helen Charteris. A novel. 3 vols.—'Helen Charteris' is dedicated to Miss Edgeworth,—and owes its origin, we are assured in the preface, to a lady "who has already made a successful *début* in literature." It has for purpose, we are further told, expressly to illustrate that peculiar companionship "which ought to exist between mothers and daughters." The above announcements are all, more or less, calculated to prepare the reader for a gentle, sound-hearted, shrewd domestic novel:—something (to use a familiar phrase) "out of the common way." Perhaps it was unwise to tender them,—since we think that the tale, though not without merit, will hardly satisfy such expectation. Sweetness of temper there is—in the characters of Mrs. Charteris and Lionel Cleaveland—and there is humour in the exploits and ambitions of the Mackerackin mother and daughters; but Miss Burney's Mr. Dumbler and Mr. Dickens's Major Babstock are less bountiful in their tediousness than the bores in question—and the authoress of 'Helen Charteris' is neither a Burney nor a Boz in neatness of hand or liveliness of colouring. Then, the heroine herself and her dealings with her lover are incomprehensible to us. Why she should attach herself so passionately,—why he should behave with such a selfish and sentimental vacillation,—and how, his nature once made clear, Helen should still fondly cling to her affection,—are incompatibilities which the authoress has not sufficiently well reconciled to persuade us into faith or interest on the subject. Nor do we accept the story and trials of Clary the Creole as probable. But the novel is written in an easy manner,—and has its pleasant side. Many dismal tales have "leaked out" touching the pride and prejudice of the "good society" of cathedral towns:—'Helen Charteris' shows us what its cheerfulness, its raciness, its old-

world kindness and refinement may be. That benevolent old couple Mr. and Mrs. Beaumont would redeem the book were it twenty times more insipid than it is.

Model Women and Children. Modelled by Horace Mayhew. Sculptured by H. G. Hine.—Every bachelor and maid of us could have helped Messrs. Mayhew and Hine to some half a dozen of good women (with and without heads) not included in their gallery. Every parent, again, has, of course, his own peculiar candidate to put forward: one model child for his audacity—another for the darling's charity before he could speak,—a third for the nationality of the "dear English girl who declined to learn French," &c. There would be no end, in short, of such a collection were completeness in any degree attempted. Meanwhile, here is a sample of perfection large enough to satisfy without needlessly discouraging us. Let the Sues bring the Deadly Sins to the French market as voluminously as they please—so long as John Bull can "wrap himself in his respectability," and buy a *cento* of Cardinal Virtues like this for a shilling! The show, however, we must add, is not altogether a new exhibition—the Model Women having been already exhibited, we believe, within the magical and mithral tent of *Punch*.

Man and his Motives. By G. Moore, M.D.—In the first page of this book which we opened, the following passage caught our attention:—"Man is not a ripening organism, but a peculiar being, having relation both to the past and the future, and an interest both in history and prophecy, because time, eternity and man belong to God, who uses them all for the manifestation of himself." Any creature not born perfect in intelligence and stature must be "a ripening organism" in any intelligible sense of that expression; it is no peculiarity in man to have relation to the past and the future, for that must be the case with any animal that has parents and offspring; the interest of man in history and prophecy arises but remotely from his relations to Deity, because the only notion of time, if time it can be called, which can be associated with the notion of Divine Existence is an *Eternal Now*. As we went further in the book we found that we fared worse, and not being willing that our readers should share in our sufferings, we dismiss Dr. Moore with the old scholastic hint, *Si non vis intelligi, debes negligi*.

Remarks on the Mediæval Writers of English History: intended as a Popular Sketch of the Advantages and Pleasures derivable from Monastic Literature. By W. S. Gibson, Esq.—We need only add to the titular description of the character of these "remarks," that they were written to be read before a religious institution,—and that the author is very fervent in the expression of his devotional sentiments.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Abbott's (Rev. G. D.) Second English Reader, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.
Agnew's (H. R.) Chess for Winter Evenings, post 8vo. 12s. 6d. cl.
Alison's (A.) Epitome of History of Europe, 2nd ed. 12mo. 7s. 6d. cl.
Andersen's (H.) The Ugly Duck, and other Tales, post 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
Andersen's (H.) The Nightingale, and other Tales, post 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
Andersen's (H.) Tales from Denmark, royal 16mo. 6s. bds.
Armistead's (A.) A Tribute to the Negro, 8vo. 16s. cl.
Aristophanes' Comedies, Latin, edited by Holden, 8vo. 15s. 6d. cl.
Bentley's Cabinet Library, Part IV. 'Chinese Legends,' 2s. 6d. swd.
Blakey's History of the Philosophy of Mind, 4 vols. 8vo. 3l. cl.
Bohn's Stan. Lib. Vol. XL. 'Milton's Prose Works,' Vol. III. 3s. 6d. cl.
Bohn's Stan. Lib. Cyclopædia of Political Knowledge, Vol. II. 3s. 6d. cl.
Brackenbury's (Mrs. H.) 'The Pentauch,' 8vo. 3s. cl.
Baile's Poor Law Acts, by W. G. Lumley, 12mo. 2s. 6d. bds.
Corbett's (H.) Steeple Chase Calendar for 1847-8, 12mo. 3s. swd.
Cuttwell's Housekeeper's Account-Book for 1846, 4to. 2s. swd.
Dwight's (M. A.) Grecian and Roman Mythology, 1 vol. 8vo. 21s. cl.
Evans's House and General Expense Book for 1846, 4to. 4s. 6d. cl.
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Gilly's (W. S.) Romanat Version of St. John, 8vo. 5s. 6d. cl.
Gleny's Garden Almanack for 1846, 8vo. 3s. swd.
Goethe's Campaign in France in 1796, 12mo. 6s. cl.
Grant's (Rev. R.) Kipling, with other Poems, post 8vo. 5s. cl.
Hammond & Goodall's Solutions of Gen. Examination Questions, 4s.
Humphreys's (H. N.) Record of the Black Prince, sq. 8vo. 21s. cl.
Hudson's (R.) Land Valuer's Assistant, new edition, oblong. 4s. cl.
Hanna's (J.) Theoretical and Practical Mechanics, 8vo. 9s. cl.
Iram, a Mexican Tale, by Charlotte Elizabeth, 12mo. 5s. bds.
Jameson's (Mrs.) Sacred and Legendary Art, 2 vols. 8vo. 42s. cl.
Johnson & Shaw's Farmer's Almanack for 1846, 12mo. 1s. swd.
Johnstone's (J. F. W.) Elements of Agricultural Chemistry, 12mo. 6s. cl.
Judson's (Sarah) Memoir, by Forester, 8vo. 2s. cl.
Kemp's Imitation of Christ, Latin, 18mo. 2s. cl.
Lover's Strategem (The), and other Tales, royal 8vo. 6s. bds.
May's (Caroline) American Female Poets, 1 vol. 8vo. 21s. cl.
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Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, by Murdock, 8vo. 21s. cl.
Murray's Library, Vol. XXXI. 'Campbell's Specimens,' post 8vo. 6s. cl.
Oakley's (F.) Practical Sermons in 1847-8, 8vo. 13s. 6d. cl.
Oliver & Boyd's Threepenny Almanack for 1846, 18mo. swd.
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Robinson's (C. P.) Education, or Mental and Vocal Philosophy, 8s. cl.
Rose's (H.) Chemical Analysis, Vol. II. 'Quantitative,' 8vo. 18s. cl.
Rose's (H.) Practical Sermons in 1847-8, 8vo. 13s. 6d. cl.
Romance of Modern Travel, 8vo. 5s. cl.
Quain's Elements of Anatomy, 5th edition, 2 vols. 8vo. 40s. cl.
Quain's Elements of Anatomy, Part III. 8vo. 12s. cl.

Sears's (R.) Description of the United States, royal 8vo. 14s. cl.
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Statutes, Vol. XIX. Part I. 11 & 12 Vict., 4to. 31s. 6d. bds.
Swainson & Wray's Common Places, deliv. at Cambridge, 3s. 6d. cl.
Thomson's (J.) Introduction to Calculus, 2nd edition, 12mo. 5s. 6d. cl.
Theophrastus, Greek and English, by John J. Owen, 12mo. 12s. 6d. cl.
Tales of Kitchick, or the Parish in the Fells, 2nd ed. square, 3s. 6d. cl.
Thiers (A.) On the Rights of Property, 8vo. 2s. swd.
Throver's (W.) Questions on Arithmetic, 12mo. 2s. cl.
Throver's (W.) Answer to Questions on Arithmetic, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.
Watson (W. H.) On the Office of Sheriff, 2nd edition, 8vo. 24s. cl.
Wesley's (J.) Epistles of the Apostolical Fathers, 12mo. 3s. cl.
Whalley's (G. H.) The Tithe Act, with the Amendments, 2nd ed. 12s. cl.
Willmetts's (E. E.) Conversations on Zoology, 12mo. 14s. 6d. cl.
Williams's (W. F.) Account of the Bermudas, 8vo. 12s. cl.
Wordsworth's (C.) Letters to Gordon on the Church of Rome, 8s. 6d. cl.

PROPOSED REFORMS IN CAMBRIDGE.

We have before us a pamphlet by Dr. Philpott, the Vice-Chancellor,—and a few remarks printed on three sides of a sheet of letter-paper by Dr. Whewell, addressed to the members of the Senate. As the time approaches for voting upon the plan which we have before described to our readers (*ante*, p. 726), it is obvious that influential members of the University begin to be in doubt as to the results. Hence these pamphlets:—which really contain nothing that can connect the opinions of the writers on the proposed plan with their general views of education and of knowledge as the medium of it.—Mr. Whewell's remarks are in effect a prayer that a trial may be granted; insisting on the power of amendment which the Senate possesses. "It is not likely that if these Graces be now negatived, they will be brought forward again in any modified form, at least for a long time."—Dr. Philpott gives a lengthened argument, of a nature which shows that he has not much opinion of the body he is addressing. Look at the reasons by which he attempts to move them:—

Now it will not be denied, that circumstances at the present time have rendered absolutely necessary, on the part of all well-wishers to the University, a careful consideration of our mode and processes of education, and of the system and order of our general course of study. Much unfriendly comment and criticism has been made upon the subject. Persons high in authority have declared their opinion, that the state of Education in Oxford and Cambridge presents matter worthy of the deepest consideration and inquiry. Some of the most ardent friends of the University, who have it much at heart to maintain its influence, have expressed apprehensions lest some ground for dissatisfaction should be found to exist in certain parts of our present system.

What strange times we live in! The journals, daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly, comment on questions of education in a manner which shows some grasp of the subject and some capacity for reasoning from the ends proposed to the method of gaining them. But the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge when he addresses the Senate (he could talk in a very different way at his own table, or in addressing an audience whose higher sentiments he wanted to move), discourses to them of unfriendly censures, opinions of those in authority, possibility that laymen may cease to resort to Cambridge for education,—and so on. A high-minded member of the Senate might answer—If the asserted defects exist and your plan of remedy be good, how can you come before us with such arguments as these?—if it be otherwise, how dare you? It is your business to propose from time to time such measures as shall keep the University right, even though newspapers should be silent, men in authority civil, and lay-students plentiful as blackberries—and never to attempt wrong, though newspapers should storm, ministers frown, and every B.A. who leaves the place be in a curacy in three months after.

We hope the Senate will minister a good-humoured rebuke to Dr. Philpott in the shape of an enormous majority in favour of the scheme. To us it seems that there never was an opportunity of doing more good by a vote than at present. The new Triposes are excellent things,—but the *Board of Mathematical Studies* will be invaluable. The non-resident members of the Senate who go up (all our readers know, of course, that it is up to Oxford and Cambridge, and down from them) in shoals to vote for a member of parliament,—and even for a public orator,—will surely never be inactive on such an occasion as the present. Compared with the settlement of the question at issue in the Graces soon to be proposed, it matters very little indeed who cries *aye* and no in the House for the University, or who makes a neat speech to Prince Albert. We well remember, twenty years ago, when the London Masters of Arts seized

on the Paddington stages and poured into the University to defeat the petition against Catholic Emancipation. There was no railroad then,—but they will find a way. Let it be so now: let each non-resident read these Graces,—and then go and vote for his opinions. We are very sure that nine out of ten will vote for our opinions too.

When we wrote the above, we were not aware that the question would be decided before the day of our publication. The matter was, however, settled on Tuesday; and all the proposals were agreed to in both houses of the Senate, by very respectable majorities,—showing, nevertheless, a larger amount of opposition than we had expected.—The following is the account of the decision. Our readers will remember that the black-hood house consists of those who have been masters of arts seven years,—the white-hood house of masters of arts not of seven years standing. Doctors vote in either house, at pleasure. Grace A. compels under-graduates to attend some of the University professors; B. establishes the Tripos of moral sciences; C. establishes that of natural sciences; D. establishes the board of mathematical studies; E. requires attendance on the theological professors previous to entering the theological examination.

	Black-hoods.		White-hoods.		Number for to 100 against.	
	For.	Against.	For.	Against.	Black-hoods.	White-hoods.
A. ..	101	41	67	34	246	197
B. ..	94	44	61	39	213	156
C. ..	89	47	60	40	189	120
D. ..	97	38	71	28	255	254
E. ..	84	41	57	35	205	163

Thus it appears that in every instance the seniors are more in favour of the reform than the juniors; and that the most acceptable part of the plan, and that which commands practically the same degree of favour in both houses, is that which stands in the same place in our own opinion—namely, the board of mathematical studies. It appears also that if the two houses had been required to arrange the five Graces in order of preference, they would have agreed in their return. The vote on grace D. in the lower house is creditable: for the effect of the Grace, so far as the position of the house is concerned, is to increase the influence of the elders. We congratulate the University on the result:—but yet cannot imagine how it was that no part of this plan commanded more than five to two in its favour.

NEPTUNE—WHETHER NEPTUNE OR NOT.

SHALL we really be obliged to declare that the best joke of the century is on a question of pure mathematics? We have before us a second memoir from Mr. Leverrier (in the *Comptes Rendus* for October the 2nd), in serious answer to M. Babinet. Locke observes that whatever is, is;—he also remarks that it is impossible for a thing to be and not to be. Hamlet mentions the alternative—"To be or not to be, that is the question." Had he lived in our day he would have said—"To be and not to be, that is the certainty." We half taunted Mr. Weld, in reviewing his 'History of the Royal Society,' because he proved by distinct trains of investigation, first, that their mace was not Cromwell's bauble, secondly, that it was another. He knew the temper of the times better than we did. All the formulae of algebra are in a state of high excitement; the denominators of the fractions have nearly shaken the numerators off their backs with laughing,—and the impossible quantities are to move for an injunction against any who shall give them that name in future.

Neptune was predicted;—and then he was found as predicted. The calculations by which he was found proceeded on data necessarily affected as well by errors of observation as by some degree of uncertainty in the mass of Saturn, and by the possible existence of several planets exterior to Uranus. The calculations assumed that some one of these planets, the nearest to Uranus, would be found to account for the great bulk of the last item. But how much might arise from the first and second items in vitating the data of the problem could not be perfectly ascertained, though reasonable limits might be assigned within which it was pretty sure to lie. M. Leverrier produces, from calculation, the possible deviations

from actual truth which a very supposable amount of uncertainty might produce; and he finds that his determinations as to the place and elements of Neptune are within those deviations. Had he written this paper before the discovery of the planet, all the mathematical world would have fully granted his assertions as to what might be expected in the way of discordance supposing a planet to be ultimately found, —and all other worlds would have declined to form a judgment. But the planet was found: every one who knows how to look can see it; and forthwith it is everybody's property, —and any one is to judge all the train of abstruse mathematical analysis by which the discovery was made. We have many readers who can ride on the railroad without pretending to correct the existing knowledge of the law of expansion of steam by any experience of theirs; and they will be very apt to think that Encke, or Struve, or Herschel, or Airy, remain better judges of the question than themselves, even though the planet has actually been found.

M. Leverrier is getting annoyed: —and we do not wonder at it. He affirms that his paper will terminate the contest in the minds of all who seek nothing but light—that he will give conscientious explanations to all who conscientiously demand them; and he reminds his readers that the same parties who laughed at his project in 1846 are those who now think it not to be borne that he should have succeeded in giving eighty years of the position of the planet with only $7\frac{1}{2}$ ° of error at each extreme—and would have a severe example made of him for doing so. We are not sufficiently acquainted with the interior of the Institute to understand the allusions; but we recommend M. Leverrier to keep calm—and laugh. Let him take a leaf out of our book, and recommend his opponents if they say that there is another planet to find it. If the chapter of accidents have so unwarrantably favoured one set of calculations, it may act in the same way towards another.—We observe that our police magistrates, when a boy is caught running away with a stolen handkerchief, invariably disbelieve the story that it was another boy who threw the handkerchief, “just that very instant, your honour,” to the poor culprit at the bar, while the latter happened to be running home to his dinner. The laws of probable evidence extend the whole width of the solar system, and a trifle further.

M. Leverrier informs us that Sir John Herschel is engaged in a discussion of the question, which will be given to the scientific world.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

It was only last week that we expressed our dissatisfaction with the secrecy observed by the Royal Commissioners of Inquiry into the state of the British Museum—and gave some reasons for doing so. Already we are furnished with more. Though the Commissioners themselves will publish nothing, others—and those apparently persons having access to the evidence which has been taken—are beginning to publish for them. In the *Observer* of last week there is an article which draws conclusions and imputes charges upon a general statement of the results of the evidence. Of course this is done by a partisan. Mark the consequence of the ill-judged attempt at a secret inquiry! The public will have statement after statement, inculpation after inculpation, put before it, without any means of knowing the facts but from those who make themselves the accusers. Surely the Government ought to demand from the Commission an account of its proceedings, for immediate publication. For ourselves, we have been all along in possession of such information as to these proceedings as we could have safely made the basis of a continued series of remarks, if we had not been withheld by two considerations:—first, the indecency of publishing the evidence which the Commission has a right to keep secret, though it be merely to exert that right;—secondly, the unfairness of giving the public mind a bias upon a statement of evidence which it would be impossible to quote largely in the very words of those who gave it. But if the Commissioners neither publish nor institute an inquiry into the source from whence the *Observer* drew its information,—a source which we have no doubt is in the Museum itself,—it will then become matter of consideration whether we are not morally authorized to avail ourselves of the means which we

possess. To give an instance:—when it is stated that the Keeper of the Printed Books refuses to give up the manuscripts of the Grenville Library to the Manuscript Department because he is persuaded that Mr. Grenville would have objected to the separation, we can state our knowledge of its being in evidence that Mr. Grenville left a written memorandum to that effect,—and would have made the direction a codicil to the bequest if he had not been assured that his memorandum would be sufficient. Now, this journal has frequently differed from Mr. Panizzi on Museum matters—as all its readers know; but we must yet call it too bad that the supposed refusal, unreasonable until explained, should be attributed to his mere persuasion of a fact of which all the Trustees have been long ago equally persuaded by the sight of Mr. Grenville's handwriting,—and this by some one who must know how the matter stands. We might go further;—but our business is rather with the necessity of pressing the Commission to an immediate publication. Surreptitious publication is beginning; and, granting that a purpose could be answered by keeping back the truth, it is clear that nothing but harm can come of the circulation of truth distorted,—which is the worst phase of falsehood.

On the subject of the Graces which have just passed the Senate at Cambridge, a correspondent writes to us from that University as follows.—“The Graces for the introduction of the studies lectured on by our Professors into our regular curriculum were all carried by very large majorities,—to the great surprise of every one. The defeat of some or all was fully anticipated by the Vice Chancellor and most of the persons of whom I had an opportunity of making any inquiry before the voting began. The number voting in the Black Hood House were 142, and in the White Hood 100—larger by far than I remember on any previous occasion independent of an election of some sort.”

An exhibition was given on Monday at the Hanover-Square Rooms of the new Electric Light. This, we believe, is the same system by which it was proposed some time ago to form an artificial Sun to light Paris. Mr. Staite, the inventor of this modification, proposes to parcel out his sun into little bits, so that any of us may have three farthings' worth of sun to light our private apartments:—which it will do with the brilliancy of 500 wax candles. One bit of sun was exhibited to the meeting; and in its light even the famous lime ball of Drummond grew dim. The difficulty has been, to compensate for the carbon consumed, so as to keep the points of the carbon always in contact. Mr. Staite seems to have overcome this difficulty. At present, the light is not quite perfect,—as it is not easy to obtain the carbon quite pure. It is, however, so nearly so, that there seems little doubt of final success. The battery consisted of forty plates of Grove's battery, with iron in lieu of platinum: the surface being only one and a quarter square yards. The light burns under water. We may hope to hear further of this beautiful invention.

The Royal College of Physicians of London, feeling that on the reappearance of epidemic cholera in England, the public may naturally look to them for advice and guidance, have deemed it proper to appoint a cholera committee, composed of physicians who hold important offices in the metropolitan hospitals, or who had extensive experience of the disease at its last visitation,—to consider what measures it is expedient to adopt with a view of preventing the spread of the disease, and of otherwise mitigating its evils.

The next book issued by the Camden Society will be Camden's ‘Visitation of Huntingdonshire,’ edited by Sir Henry Ellis. It will be profusely illustrated with woodcuts of the arms, seals, &c.; and will have the effect of answering the objection that the Society has never yet done anything to identify itself with the illustrious King at Arms whose name it bears.—A ‘Treatise on the Power and Authority of Parliament,’ by Sir Roger Twysden, edited by Mr. J. M. Kemble, from the original MS. in the possession of the Rev. Lambert Larking, will form an early publication by the same Society,—and furnish, it is understood, no unimportant contribution to our Constitutional History.

“A book was writ of late called” ‘Mildred Vernon,’ which we hear has been affiliated to as many noble

persons, likely and unlikely, as in their day were ‘Cecil’ and ‘Albert Lunel.’ Mr. Colburn does not give up the “nobility” of the authorship; but in a letter just published by him, he announces that the writer is resident in Paris,—which removes “the sin” from the door of any English peer or peeress.

We spoke last week of two prizes of 10l. and 5l. respectively which the Committee of the City of London Literary and Scientific Institution had offered for the best essay ‘On the Characters and Advantages of Literary and Scientific Institutions, their claims to the support of society, and the best means of extending their usefulness.’ The prizes were not on a very munificent scale,—particularly as they are to buy the copyright of the essays; but the various problems affecting the condition of these institutions having of late, owing to repeated failures, attracted a good deal of inquiry—in which we have taken our share—we deemed the proposition one to which it was well to call the attention of our readers. Had we been better informed, we might have spared ourselves that trouble. When we wrote, we had the advertisement of the Committee before us. A correspondent has now sent us their prospectus—and there the matter wears a different aspect altogether. Instead of a movement to promote an important social inquiry, the object seems to have been purely commercial—a device for attracting subscribers now and advertising the Society hereafter. Our readers may now be informed that the competition is not general, but was to be “confined to gentlemen who were members of the Institution on Monday, the 30th of October, 1848”—and the qualified competitors are informed that the argument is not an open one, but “the City of London Literary and Scientific Institution, Aldersgate Street,” is “to be taken as an example of the institutions referred to in the title.” Our correspondent thinks this is a scheme on the model of a Margate raffle or a Derby sweep. “Suppose,” he says, “fifty new subscribers to be made of two guineas each,—fifteen pounds may well be divided in prizes.” The prizes too are apparently to be distributed on the principle on which Lear divided his kingdom. The “Institution, Aldersgate Street,” will probably not tolerate a literary Cordelia. With all this we have nothing to do:—but certainly the matter is not one to which we should have invited attention had we understood its nature.

We are glad to see that the “Jews” and General Literary Institution” is making progress. At a public meeting and conversation held last week in Sussex Hall, Mr. De Castro, the President, stated that the library now contains 4,000 volumes,—and 39,000 have been lent since the opening of the Institution.

The new Training College at Carmarthen, intended for the instruction of the schoolmasters of the Principality on the plan of the National Society,—and which has been erected under the superintendence of the Welsh Committee of Education, at a cost of 9,000l.—was opened last week. It is calculated for the teaching and residence of sixty schoolmasters. The Rev. Mr. Reed, from the York Training College, has been appointed Principal.

At Birmingham there has been a meeting, the Mayor in the chair, with a view to determining on the needful measures for the reception, next year, of the British Association in that town. A committee was appointed to carry into effect the objects of the assembly.

The *Delhi Gazette* reports that at a recent meeting of the Archaeological Society of that city, the following resolution was adopted by the members.—

That a recommendation be submitted to the Government of India, to add to the survey of the district of Delhi about to be instituted a commission, to consist of a competent archaeologist and a draftsman of acknowledged acquirements, to examine the whole of the ancient buildings, sites, inscriptions, &c., at present in existence in the Northern Parganahs of Delhi; and that, if the results of the labours of the commission be such as to warrant their extension, other parts of the Upper Provinces be examined in a similar manner. And that His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, Patron of the Society, be solicited to afford the application such support as he may consider it to deserve.

“It is well known,” says the *Delhi Gazette*, “that for forty years and upwards, the town of Delhi and the districts of which it is the capital have been in the possession of the British Government as administered by the East India Company. It may not be equally well known to all that, with the exception of some researches of Mr. Walter Ewer, regarding the

Kootub Meenar, recorded in the fourteenth volume of the 'Asiatic Researches,' a general, but very superficial, description of Delhi, by Colonel (then Captain) Franklin, an incorrect account of the same Meenar by Lieut. Blunt (in 1792), the minute labours bestowed by the illustrious James Prinsep on the deciphering of the Palee inscription on the stone pillar standing in the ruins of Feeroz Shah's palace, and one or two minor labours in this vast field of antiquarian riches, little has been done towards elucidating, by a careful, patient, and comparative examination of the ancient remains around us, the literature and history of the people who inhabited, or conquered, this country before we became its rulers, or towards ascertaining the progress which they had made in the fine arts, and which progress those remains are so materially calculated to illustrate. • • The exquisite and singular specimens of the architecture of Delhi, its several Hindoo and numerous Mohammedan monuments, its inscriptions, &c., are all but unknown, in the antiquarian sense of the word, though they have for many years been objects of wonder to the traveller in search of the curious."

The waters of the Nile have risen this year to an unusual and destructive height. A correspondent from Cairo, speaking of this calamity which has succeeded to the fearful pestilence by which Egypt has been ravaged—and which is said to have taken 133,000 victims, Cairo furnishing a contingent of 10,000—says:—"Nearly the whole crop of Dura, it is feared, will be destroyed; and you can conceive the distress which will ensue, as the fellahen subsist almost entirely upon it. The water was in the streets of Cairo a few days since, the canal having flowed through the courts of the houses; but the government has had the mouth of the canal so dammed that only a small quantity of water can flow in. Boolák and Old Cairo are almost under water. The reason of this extraordinary rise appears to be this:—the Pashas and great men find cotton to be the most profitable thing they can sow in their fields; and as the water must not flow over this cotton, Upper Egypt is full of dykes and dams which confine the Nile to a much smaller space."

Many a literary problem, more or less curious, starts up in the daily reading or book-collecting of him who has an eye for such game.—It is not easy in this country to decide on the date at which the American colonies began to reprint English books. It is, we believe, known that the Latin grammars were imported from London down to the period of the struggle with the mother-country—and that the stoppage of the supply, occasioned by the hostilities, gladdened the hearts of the school-boys, and made them feel that the war was truly one of Independence. Nevertheless, school-books must have been reprinted in America fifty years before the war broke out. There is a Boston edition of Hodder's Arithmetic, called the twenty-fifth, and bearing date 1719. It is true, this little undertaking was the speculation of seven combined publishers; and we hardly know whether to wonder most at there being seven publishers in Boston, or at its needing no less than seven capitals to bear the risk of a small octavo of 200 pages. A question arises, however—was this book printed at Boston in Lincolnshire? for in the absence of all reference to America except the single word *Boston*, this last supposition is the most probable. But then, the printer's name is *J. Franklin*; and we know that Benjamin Franklin was an apprentice to his brother, a Boston printer, in 1719. It is not very unlikely that the apprentice may have worked upon this book. Still, some will think it more likely that a Franklin should have printed in both Bostons, than that seven American publishers should combine to print a book in 1719 which it is likely they might have got cheaper from England. The copy of which we write has a singular answer to these last in a manuscript memorandum inserted in the book,—by which it appears that in 1796 its possessor sailed from Boston, and "came too twice, once in King Road and once in ye Narrows." Now, though the common maps do not show it, we are informed that King Road and the Narrows make a conspicuous figure in the chart of the Massachusetts Boston. The type of this book is very straggling, and the letters very often look as if they came from different founts: nevertheless, the printing is such

as might have come from an English country town at a later period.—If any of our readers think that such speculations as the above are a sort of literary trifling, we will assure them that such trifling sometimes leads to important consequences. A theory on one or another point of the history of human progress has before now received its death-wound from the production of a neglected book.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.—NOTICE.—The Picture of ST. MARK'S at VENICE, will shortly be removed. Also, now exhibiting, MOUNT JETNA, in SICILY, during an Eruption. Both Pictures are seen under various effects of light and shade. Open from Ten till Four.—Admission, 2s.; Children under Twelve Years, Half-price.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—A LECTURE ON SANITARY MEASURES connected with the Progress of CHOLERA and other EPIDEMICS, by Dr. Ryan, daily at Half-past Three, and on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Evenings, at Nine o'clock. Also on the MANUFACTURE OF GUTTA SERENA, by Dr. Bachhoffner, Mornings and alternate Evenings. An entirely new PHANTASMAGORIA, by CHILDE, every Evening at Eight o'clock, with APPROPRIATE MUSIC. The DISSOLVING VIEWS, with historical descriptions. The CHROMATROPE with New Effects. The MICROSCOPE at One o'clock daily. DIVER and DIVING-BELL, WORKING MODELS explained. —Admission, 1s.; Schools, Half-price. The New Catalogue, 1s.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Mon. Entomological, 8, P.M.
— Royal Institution, 2.—Monthly.
Tues. Horticultural, 2.
— Linnean, 8.
Wed. Literary Fund, 3.
Thurs. Royal Society of Literature, 4.
Fri. Astronomical, 8.

FINE ARTS

FRESCOS IN THE NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

TWELVE months since [No. 1050, p. 1277], in commenting on the fresco decorations of the House of Lords, we recorded our conviction that, for the purpose of securing the harmonious result required in a number of spaces prescribed by architectonic considerations in a single room, the presidency of one mind was essential:—and our reasons for that view need not here be repeated. Further experience but confirms it. Another visit to the Houses of Parliament, to observe what has been lately done in the Upper Waiting Room—in which eight compartments are to be filled with subjects from our leading British Poets—convinces us that if such a series of subjects as this, at any rate, be not under the government of a single artist, they should at least have common conditions prescribed of incident, character, scale, and perspective. Without this, a room of the kind when completed will be but an assemblage of casual and varied treatment, like that which meets the eye in an Exhibition-room.

In the selection of the subjects for these compartments care should be taken that they are such as are likely to secure on the part of the various artists consent of feeling and congeniality of treatment. Whether they deal with religion, history, or morals, the pictures should harmonize with each other and with the locality which they are intended to adorn. Such embellishments are intended to make the finish—to carry out the architect's design; and it would be as much a divergence from the original intention to produce discrepancies in the pictorial decorations as it would be were the architect himself to adopt a variety of styles of distinct dates and characters in the several details with which he purposed to give lightness or enrichment to its various parts.

Correspondence in scale is another element especially to be complied with. No disparity in this can be admitted without destruction to the symmetry and harmony of the whole. If it be objected that such considerations control talent too absolutely, we answer that the really great and independently-minded artist will find no restraint in having the shape of his picture or the scale of its principal parts prescribed. The greatest minds have submitted to such dictation. The Vatican attests that a Raffaele and a Michael Angelo were only incited by such conditions to the production of the sublimest results. Even in the lower schools, where facility betrayed artists into inconsiderateness, attention was always given to such correspondence of quantities, character, and scale as should insure architectural symmetry. To carry out this principle effectually, it will be further obvious that a general condition of perspective in regard to the altitude of horizon and point of sight must be imposed and directed more immediately in regard to that presumed position of the spectator which gives the greatest amount of truth and illusion in the most natural or agreeable way. These are considerations

which can no more be neglected in a scheme for a number of pictures than they can in the disposition of the several parts of an individual one.

Of the eight spaces in this Waiting Room, two have been filled: one by Mr. Cope, with an illustration of Chaucer—the other by Mr. Horsley, with a subject from Milton. A third compartment is in progress of filling up by Mr. Herbert, with a theme from Shakespeare—to speak of which, beyond the mention of its design and of its fitness for the intended purpose, would obviously be premature.

In commenting on these three designs, simply considered as such, we are impressed with a sense of the absence of that uniformity for which we contend. We cannot admit that Mr. Horsley's can be placed in the same category with the other two. The designs of Mr. Cope and Mr. Herbert both possess that feeling of their written text which carries us back to the times intended to be represented. Each has caught the spirit of his author, and each inspires the beholder with a train of sentiment that is strengthened, not disturbed, by turning to the other. In this Mr. Horsley's fails:—much possibly owing to the nature of the subject with which he had to deal. The 'Paradise Lost' scarcely offered to the painter a subject which could be made to harmonize with the others executed, and to be executed, in this room. The religious and spiritual cannot be made to coincide in sentiment with themes from mediæval fiction or romance. Then, there is disparity of scale: the parts being much larger in Mr. Horsley's fresco than in the others.

The patience of Griselda, from Chaucer's 'Clerke's Tale,' furnishes Mr. Cope's theme.—

A manner sergeant was this privy man,
The which he faithful often founden had
In thinges gret, and eke such folk wel can
Don execution on thinges bad:
The lord knew wel that he him loved and drað.
And whan this sergeant wist his lordes will
Into the chamber he stalked him ful still.

Madame, he sayd, ye mote forgoe it me,
Though I do thing to which I am constrained:
Ye ben so wise, that right wel knowen ye
That lordes hestes may not ben yfeined.
They may wel be bewailed and complained,
But men make nede to his lust oþer;
And so wol I, ther n'is no more to say.

This child I am commanded for to take,
And spake no more, but out the child he hent
Despitously, and gan a chere to make.
As though he would have slaine it, or he went
Griseldis most al suffer and al consent:
And as a lambe, she sitteth meke and still,
And let this cruel sergeant do his will.

Suspicious was the diffame of this man,
Suspect his face, suspect his word also,
Suspect the time in which he this began.
&c. &c.

The illustration of these stanzas bears honourable testimony to the artist's power—as well in thought as in execution. Energy and pathos alike distinguish his work. He has read his author carefully—well selected the point of his story for sentiment and for situation—and discriminated his characters with large intelligence. The situation of the mother suddenly deprived of her offspring, and looking for its destruction before her eyes, yields at once expressions that are pathetic and contours that are marked. Mr. Cope has invented his picture with the feeling of a poet, and expressed the invention in Art-language that befits it. The pantomime at once reveals the tale,—and, while satisfying the demands of Art, is kept within the limits of natural and probable incident.

The manipulation confirms the previously entertained opinion of Mr. Cope's capacity to deal with the fresco material. He has shown his knowledge of the range of hues of the peculiar palette prescribed by the limited nature of its means in the production of chiar-oscuro. His resources are as ingenious as they are legitimate. While there is sufficient evidence of reference to the practice of the best examples of Florentine art, there is a manly independence of style that reminds us of no one especial master. We notice a want of harmony in the colour of some of the accessories; such as the cradle, &c.,—which are pitched in a higher scale than the more general portions of the work.

Mr. Horsley's fresco illustrates the following lines in the fourth book of the 'Paradise Lost.'—

Ithuriel and Zephon, with wing'd speed
Search through this garden, leave unsearch'd no nook;

But chiefly where those two fair creatures lodge,
Now laid perhaps asleep, secure of harm.
This evening from the sun's decline arriv'd,
Who tells of some infernal spirit seen
Hitherward bent (who could have thought?) escap'd
The bars of Hell, on errand bad no doubt:
Such, where ye find, seize fast, and hither bring.

So saying, on he led his radiant files,
Dazzling the moon; they sought to the bower direct
In search of whom they thought: Him there they found
Squat like a toad, close at the ear of Eve,
Assaying by his devilish art to reach
The organs of her fancy, and with them forgo
Illusions, as he list, phantasms and dreams;
Or if, inspiring venom, he might taint
The animal spirits, that from pure blood arise
Like gentle breath from rivers pure, thence raise
At least discompos'd, discontented thoughts,
Vain hopes, vain aims, inordinate desires,
Blown up with high conceits, engendering pride.
Him thus intent ithuriel with his spear
Touch'd lightly; for no falsehood can endure
Touch of celestial temper, but returns
Of force to its own likeness: up he starts
Discover'd and surpris'd.

Its excellence resides more in the manipulative quality than in the mental faculty. Mr. Horsley has essayed a subject which brings him into trying comparison with Fuseli's composition of 'Our First Parents,' in the same scene, engraved by Anker Smith for Du Roveray's edition of Milton. If Mr. Horsley have not fully succeeded, it may be remembered that his subject tasked a talent which comprehended grasp of mind, power of invention, knowledge of human form and facility of expressing it. These are powers peculiar to the very highest schools of Art—and which but few of our own time are equal to. A subject less lofty in aim and more literal in character would have been better adapted to the acknowledged abilities of this painter; who here contends against conditions for which his early practice—that won him just reputation—has not adapted him. The merit of his present work is, as we have said, of a strictly practical character. There are portions of it which in this particular sense are not likely to be soon surpassed. Once more we demur to the judgment that assigned him a subject so unfavourable,—one which, in the most able hand, could not, as we have before stated, have been made to range in its spiritual bearing with the more literal meanings of the majority of subjects that will decorate the walls of the same apartment.

For Mr. Herbert's fresco—'Lear disinheriting Cordelia'—we wait. Of the cartoon we will say nothing—but that, of the three artists, Mr. Herbert appears to have best adapted his design to the architectural requirements of the place which it is to occupy. His selection of horizon, general perspective arrangement, adaptation of its own light and shade to the natural light of the window near it—so as to produce illusion and reality of look—all mark the forethought of the artist, and should serve as excellent hints to those who are to fill in the remaining spaces.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Münster, September.

The passion for "collecting" grows, as all the world is aware. When a man has "rummaged" twenty churches or towns, he must rummage twenty-five, and so on, in arithmetical progression. So likely, alas! does it seem just now that for some years to come Germany must be a land not comfortably approachable by the pleasure-tourist, that, having seen and admired some of the oldest cities of the North and South, it was impossible to pass the capital of Westphalia when there was an opportunity of turning aside to visit it. This is now an easy affair, since a branch railroad from the Cologne and Minden line brings the passenger to Münster without the weariness of posting. But the adventure is still superfluously tedious. The Germans who go betwixt Cologne and Berlin are resolved that as much time shall be spent over this new mode of conveyance as possible. A railway journey with them is a business not to be undertaken without great deliberation. From half to three-quarters of an hour must be idled away at the station ere it is possible to get off,—punctuality in starting being little respected; and, generally, once every hour and a half the whole train must be emptied of its live stock, in order that the latter may feed. Of course, the rate is the slowest that can be managed.—the opportunities for getting on are the fewest. In our own instance, by a skilful adjustment of the trains for Münster it becomes almost inevitable that

the tourist shall wait for a couple of hours at Hamm. Now, Hamm is not a very inviting place: the town is ten minutes' walk from the station, and boasts little to show except a church as green from turret to toe, as if it had lain in Westphalian pickle. The sweetest-tempered of Englishmen must revolt against a wanton waste of leisure devised apparently for the use and comfort of no other persons than the coffee-house and *Restaurateur*-keepers.

We have seen Münster under every possible disadvantage—the worst of rainy weather, and the people taken up in discussing the recent "*Excessen*"* committed by the town rabble—principally unlicensed ringing at the gate of Prince Waldemar because he was known to be an invalid! But in brighter weather, and at less tintinnabular junctures, as a place of sojourn Münster must be charming to all who love the riches of ancient architecture and the quiet, old-world dignity of places which have been the scenes of notable historical transactions. Even after Nuremberg and Hildesheim, it should be visited, as possessing individuality of architectural feature. The main street, or long market-place, is not only made picturesque by arcades supporting the houses, but is moreover rich in varieties of crocheted-building—the material being stone. Here we have the usual scrolled and the stepped gable—also the latter decorated by pinnacles, which are connected with the main pyramid by Gothic tracery. Were it built anew, this device could hardly escape the censure which belongs to gimcrack-ery and top-heaviness. The *Rath-Haus* makes a very bad subject for a drawing; yet, in its place, in spite of what painters and whitewashers have done, it has a certain fitness and venerable air—if we must not say genuine respectability.

There are four rich Gothic churches here:—two of them remarkable as affording excellent examples of fan-tracery in the windows, and all for the good preservation of their exterior sculptures. This last becomes a curious peculiarity when it is recollected how the town of Münster was held for many months by a rabble of fanatics, who have usually shown a blind pleasure in destruction for destruction's sake. But John of Leyden and Knipperdolling can have done little havoc among the carved images,—so many are still left. I need but mention a crucifix and several curious figures on the tower of the *Oberwasser Kirche*—a rich genealogical tree over the portal at St. Lambert's—among the many fine and interesting specimens spared to us. This being the case, would it not be generous in the men of Münster (if for no higher reason) to remove from the latter church the cages in which those wretched men expiated their crime, and from the Town Hall the implements of torture employed to render their punishment more horrible? Such ghastly relics are as distasteful to encounter as was the old gibbeted highwayman which no longer scares the pilgrim over the moor at the place where four roads cross.

The Cathedral is, further, eminent among German cathedrals for its singular loveliness, for the great span of the arches and the massiveness of the piers of the nave, and the very rich roof-loft shutting out and in the choir. So rich is it in monumental decoration—so intricate in lights and shadows caused by this massiveness of subdivisions—as to remind me of some of the mysterious, dark, elder Italian churches where Christianity is seen to have possessed itself of one of the strongholds of Paganism, or seems to have nestled in some grotto or cavern, because security, not splendour, was the thing of first necessity. This Cathedral of Münster is further interesting as being more uniform than the generality of such buildings. It has two pairs of transepts, two sacrament-houses or pinnacled shrines, two delicate staircases to the roof-loft—and within, none of those obvious eking-out and afterthoughts which are so provoking however welcome they may be as providing occupation for Fancy's architecture. There is throughout a mixture of early and late Gothic; some of the windows being the heavy low triple one of an early

* I note this charming new Germanism on purpose. It is curious that at the very moment when the people are so eager about their nationality they should consent so wondrously to corrupt their language. A crop of new words has sprung up since I was last here:—"Concessionirte," "*Delicatessen*," "*Utensilien*," and the like; not to speak of "*Barriecaden*," and other precious naturalizations from French.

date,—while others are of the lightest period, very tall, and, as often happens in similar German specimens, lighter for being without transoms. Yet this variety would almost seem to have been from the first coherently arranged, rather than a result of works interrupted and resumed at a later period under another dispensation. The floor is embossed with brass escutcheons. The monuments are gorgeous, quaint, and rich; and a huge St. Christopher guards the entrance of the nave,—who must make a portentous and menacing figure when day is closing in and merely a twinkling light or two at some far altar remain unextinguished. The one vexation is the frippery fancy which some fifty (?) years ago tricked out the choir in peach-colour and green, with shabby painted arabesques fit enough for Countess Platen's bower at Herrenhausen, where gay tastelessness was the *desideratum*, but intolerably out of place in a building so solemn as the *Dom* of Münster. The outside of this Cathedral—which is set in an open space filled with tall trees—is rich in detail; and, in spite of the friable nature of the stone, as I have said, it is well preserved. May no second John of Leyden appear to earn our thanks for doing so little mischief!

St. *Ludger's Kirche*, for its graceful octagonal tower and lantern,—and the *Oberwasser Kirche*, for the singularity of the cage-work of tabernacles or pinnacles which finish its four corners and at a distance produce the ineffective appearance of irregular reticulation,—are well worthy of the architect's study. The painter, again,—if he disdain sketching in the open air,—will find food for thought and comparison in the ancient pictures of the Westphalian school which the *Museum* contains. Even the amateur who has looked transiently at the quaint antiquities in the *Moritz Kapelle* and the churches at Nuremberg, and at the old Cologne pictures in the gallery at Cologne and the churches at Xanten, Neuss, and elsewhere in the Lower Rhine Land [see *Ath.* No. 991], will perceive without much stretch of ingenuity that these Westphalian productions must be ranked as old German works "with a difference." One or two by an unknown master have such an Italian sweetness and delicacy in their female heads as to raise the question whether they may not be by an Italian hand,—of some stranger monk, for instance, who had brought from the cloisters of Santa Maria Novella or St. Mark's at Florence his own national type of loveliness and spirituality. A Crucifixion, painted at the instance of some rich donor whose arms are emblazoned at the foot of the Cross, is a production about which no doubt can exist,—showing a florid, crotchety, vivacious fancy, akin to that of Cranach and others of the curious elders of German art. Many fine Mary Magdalens has it been my good fortune to see,—but never such a gorgeous piece of primness as this penitent She, in her golden garments all padded, puffed, and purled, who leans three ways at once, according to the antique fashion of expressing agony. There are here, also, the portrait of the Herr von Raesfeld, who founded the Cathedral Library, by Herrmann tom Rink, bearing the date of 1521—to which many a so-called Holbein (I need go no further than our own National Gallery) is inferior,—a quartet of angular and comical pictures on the story of Constantine,—and one or two other works making up a group which the historical student of painting will find it well worth his while to examine.

About the *Frieden-Saal* I cannot speak,—the sitings of a *Bau-Commission* precluding us from seeing it. Münster boasts, also, a heavy Palace of scarlet brick and stucco mixed,—ornate with the combined devices of ecclesiastical glory and worldly diversion; built some hundred years ago, we fancy, on the site of Bishop Galen's old fortress,—since the delicious shady avenue which shelters the gardens is rooted on a rampart and defended by a moat. Then, the Boulevards are ample and well planted, offering picturesque combinations of the buildings of this grand old town at every turn. In short, as a place for sketching, or meditating, or writing the fifth act of a tragedy in, or taking ease in a truly comfortable German inn (the *Münstersches Hof*),—to say nothing of its being on the edge of an interesting district,—Münster is most attractive. Few, I apprehend, will be satisfied with seeing it once; and if some German Locke or Brunel should arise to put a little life and promptitude into these people, "a new never

can have done with anything," it might readily be reached in about three hours from Cologne. As it is, the distance thence is now merely a short Autumn day's easy journey.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—A very curious and very scandalous affair has occupied the courts of law and the Court of Windsor. The morbid appetite which turns Her Majesty's privacy into its food and the meanness that panders to it have combined to produce an event which even the constrained endurance of Royalty could not tolerate. We have refrained from all reproduction of certain paragraphs that have recently gone the round of a portion of the press descriptive of the private exercise by the Queen and the Prince Consort of their tastes and talents for Art. A quantity of drawings and etchings from these royal hands illustrative of the incidents of that domesticity which Her Majesty has as good a right to have uninvaded as any gentleman in her dominions, have by some yet unexplained agency found their way into a publisher's hands,—and been by him advertised for his own benefit. The matter is most discreditable to all who have been concerned in it,—and has forced Prince Albert into a law court as a plaintiff. An injunction has been granted, on his application, to restrain the publication: and the affidavit on which it proceeds will best describe the exact nature of the case.—We take it from the *Atlas*.—

The deponent describes himself as "Albert, Prince of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, Consort of Her Majesty the Queen," and maketh oath and saith: "That he has looked through the book intitled 'A Descriptive Catalogue of the Royal Victoria and Albert Galleries of Etchings.' That there are such etchings made by her Majesty and himself respectively as therein mentioned,—that the same were so made for the private use of her Majesty and himself, and not for publication. That they had a private press, from which they occasionally took impressions of the etchings, and that the plates were and are kept locked up by her Majesty, in order to prevent the same becoming public; but the copies are left in some of the private apartments, and in such private apartments only. That there are various family portraits and etchings from old and rare engravings in the possession of her Majesty, and several from such original designs as in this catalogue mentioned, and that amongst such etchings are several portraits of the Princess Royal, and such scenes in the royal nursery as in the catalogue mentioned. That such etchings were intended for the private use of her Majesty and the deponent only. That although some of such etchings have been given occasionally and very rarely to the personal friends of her Majesty, yet the deponent says, speaking positively for himself and to the best of his belief for her Majesty, that no such collection as that advertised for exhibition was ever given away by them or either of them, or by their or either of their permission. That no such collection could have been formed, except by impressions surreptitiously and improperly obtained, and believes that the defendant or the person or persons in the possession of the collection advertised for exhibition must have obtained and did obtain the same from some person or persons surreptitiously. That by whatever means the same were obtained, the exhibition of the said etchings, or any of them, is without the sanction and against the wishes of her Majesty and deponent, and believes that such catalogue could not have been compiled or made except by possession of the several impressions of the said etchings so surreptitiously obtained. That the deponent's first knowledge of the existence of such Catalogue of Etchings was on the 11th October instant, when it was given to deponent by G. E. Anson, Esq., as a parcel which had been left at the palace, directed to her Majesty, and opened by him as her privy purse, and deponent thereby learnt for the first time that it was intended to submit them to public exhibition, and he believes on the same occasion, and at the same time, her Majesty first became aware of the existence of such catalogue, and deponent immediately desired the said G. E. Anson, Esq., to write to the private solicitor of her Majesty on the subject.

Mr. Green, the Professor of Anatomy in the Royal Academy, will commence his course of six lectures on Monday, November 12, and continue it on the five following Mondays.—The Teacher of Perspective, Mr. J. P. Knight, commenced his course of instruction to the students of the same institution yesterday.

Sir Robert Peel has, we learn, just purchased from Mr. Farrer, the portrait of Alexander Pope, to be placed as a pendant to that of Dr. Johnson which is so conspicuous a feature in his collection in Privy Gardens. The picture was painted by the elder Richardson.—The portrait of William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, painted by Prince Hoare, has also been purchased from Mr. Farrer, by the same distinguished collector, to occupy a position in his gallery of celebrated characters at Tamworth.—Both these pictures were recently in the possession of the Duke of Buckingham at Stowe.

That species of epigrammatic treatment in which

Mr. Edwin Landseer delights is again exhibited in a series of eight etchings after his designs by Mr. Charles Lewis. The subject is called 'The Mothers.' The series begins with a charming little composition of a 'Highland Nurse' who is sedulously watching over her charge. The spirit of maternity is contended for by the painter as existing as strongly in the inferior as in the human animal; and he has asserted his theory in the Mare and Foal, Dog and Pups, Cow and Calf, Donkey and Foal, Goat and Kid, Sow and Pigs, and Sheep and Lamb. In all these the painter, with but the touch of a pen, gives fresh evidence of his extensive observation of animal nature in its varieties, and his readiness in expressing it. Mr. Lewis has been fortunate in identifying himself fully with Mr. Landseer's intentions.

We have not for a long time looked with more satisfaction on any engraving than on one just completed by Mr. T. A. Prior,—whose print after Turner's 'Heidelberg' we were enabled, a couple of years since, to introduce to the favourable notice of our readers [see *Athenæum*, No. 978, p. 767]. The present engraving has a very different subject,—and is after a work whose artist's name is not given. It represents Whittington, of the old City tradition, listening to the prophetic chimes that woo him back to fortune. Like Hogarth's *Idle and Industrious Apprentices*, the picture has its useful moral. The painter has rendered his subject in natural and well studied action, and the character is well observed:—the engraver has shown feeling and knowledge in its translation. It is solid and firm in touch, giving all the necessary variety of textures; and the combinations and lines in the flesh and drapery are contrived with skill. The sword on which the wandering boy reclines and its foreground of dock-leaves are characteristic in their touch: and, bating the too mechanical and ruled look of the sky,—which certainly wants gradation where it meets the form of old St. Paul's,—all things combine to make this an excellent print of a very popular subject.

Our print publishers desire to make hay while the sun shines, and have lost no time on the death of the protectionist leader in furnishing portraits of him. Mr. McLean contributes one from the pencil of H.B., entitled 'A Parliamentary Souvenir,'—which puts the original before us as listening to a debate in the House of Commons. We have also a lithograph engraving from a Daguerreotype by M. Claudet. Both are characteristic.

We have just seen a prospectus issued by a very deserving artist, Mr. E. V. Rippingille, for the disposal of forty-two of his works in shares of one guinea each—the works being valued at 1,235 guineas. The prizes are to be twelve in number; and some extra advantages are offered to those who subscribe larger amounts. The distribution is to take place immediately upon the required number of subscribers being obtained; or, in case the list shall not fill, the award may be made at any convenient period within twelve months, and to such an amount as shall have been subscribed. Messrs. Baily, Herbert, Charles Landseer, Stanfield, and Witherington act as guarantors for the fulfilment of the engagement,—and Messrs. Paul & Dominic Colnaghi receive subscriptions and issue shares. Mr. Rippingille will be well remembered by his popular pictures of 'The Country Post Office,' 'The Stage Coach Breakfast,' 'Going to the Fair,' and a series of six subjects, painted some years since, representing 'The Drunkard's Progress.' He is known, too, as a lecturer on Art:—but is one of those deserving votaries in her temple on whom the goddess has forgotten to shower her prizes.

We are glad to know that the Sheffield School of Design has been so successful that the committee has been enabled to remove it into much larger and more commodious premises. The new building was opened in the middle of October, and the school is now in full work. The average attendance is one hundred pupils,—and this number is on the increase.

The prize of 70 guineas offered by the Abergavenny Cymreigyddion, for the best plaster model in illustration of Cambro-British History, was awarded at the recent Eisteddfod to Mr. John Evan Thomas, of London. The subject was 'The Death of Tewdr, King of Gwent, in the moment of Victory over the Saxons, at Mathern, on the Wye'—one of the four

offered for the selection of competitors, as announced by us *ante*, p. 1034.

The *Bristol Times* has the following strange paragraph.—"Some of our readers may have noticed the quiet, noiseless, but still steady way in which the restoration of the north porch of Redcliff Church is progressing. A sculptor and five or six men are alone employed on it, but not intermittently. Those men are not paid out of the regular restoration fund, but they are paid; and if you ask them who pays them, the only answer you get is, '*Nil Desperandum*.' Who *Nil Desperandum* is nobody knows: there is a mystery about him and about the whole business. All that is clearly ascertained is that the money for this particular work finds its way steadily but secretly from *Nil Desperandum*; but *Nil Desperandum* is as unknown and as impenetrable as Junius."—Even the Committee, it is added, cannot guess at the party from whom this "secret service money" comes.

The *Bombay Times* of the 14th of September states that a large cargo of sculptures collected by Major Rawlinson had arrived in Bombay by the sloop of war Clive from the Persian Gulf,—and were to be forwarded to England as speedily as possible. "Few," it says, "or none of them amount to so much as a ton in weight; the bulk of them are not more than from fifty to one hundred pounds." There is still, it is added, a very large collection of relics at the mouth of the Euphrates,—some of which are much too large for transport. "Unfortunately, scarcely any of the sculptures are in marble; and the gypsum from which nearly all are made, though durable enough if kept dry, is partially soluble in water, and wears rapidly away in rain or heavy dew."

The French seem unable to achieve either the fact or the eidolon of a Republic. The competition for a symbolic figure, which began "full of sound and fury," has ended by "signifying nothing." Even French Art, it seems, cannot attain to the ideal of a model Republic. Six hundred artists, as our readers know, lent themselves to the attempt,—and the final failure is now before us. On the 23rd of October the Committee appointed to decide ultimately on the twelve compositions selected from the six hundred sketches, rejected all:—and, as if in despair of the object, negated a proposition for submitting it to any further competition.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

Canti Popolari Toscani, posti in Musica. Da Luigi Gordigiani. Nos. I. to XX.

It may be remembered that a tolerably close search of the great music-shop at Milan—Signor Ricordi's establishment—last year yielded nothing more important than the songs of Signor Gordigiani [*Athenæum*, No. 1044]; which the *Athenæum* was first, if we mistake not, among English periodicals to recommend to the amateur. Since then, the publication before us has reached London,—and has been here received with such favour as to be reproduced in more than one edition.

Nor is the favour unmerited. Since the 'Soirées' of Rossini we have received no collection of Italian music so excellent and attractive as this. The colour of the South and the graces of an individual imagination are expressively stamped on most of its pages. They overflow with a music tuneable, delicate, and pleasing,—winning to the singer and not distancing moderate vocal or executive powers by any great difficulty. The performer, however, will "make little of them" if he do not begin with a certain proclivity towards Italian rhythms and Italian *appoggiature*; and if, further, his articulation of the words be not refined, distinct, and expressive. And yet the scientific, or such as demand a display of skill in construction and modulation to reconcile them to a pleasant melody, need not disdain these 'Canti Toscani.' They have not, it is true, Schubert's difficulties of interval, nor his reconde chords, nor his admirable and fantastically-diversified accompaniments; but few are utterly without touches which redeem them from commonplace,—without such nicely-adapted harmonies and graceful closes as distinguish the *maestro* from the amateur, whose stock in trade is a sense of melody, original or recollected, and little beyond. Let us specify our favourites.—'La Bianchina' (No. II. of Messrs. Cramer's

series), if sung well (and not too well) has a delicious and graceful abandon hardly to be resisted. 'Ognuno tira l'acqua al suo mulino' (No. IV.) will test the Italian pronunciation of the singer,—but it is arch, and new in its forms. In 'Speranza del mio cor' (No. V.) the setting of the words "non ti ricordi più" is most pathetic; and the whole song is a treasure to any one who feels what she sings. 'E questa valle' (No. IX.)—breathes a gayer humour; offering temptations to all whose fancy lies in the direction of the piquant. 'Partita è già la nave' (No. XIV.) has a certain novelty, even though it be a *Barcarole*. 'O gentilina, gentilina' (No. XV.) must be commended for its gaiety and spirit. Others of the series, however, may be found more attractive than the above:—the effect of this music, let us again repeat, largely depending upon the sympathy of the executant. Coldly or carelessly sung, or with an English or German *bocca*, the best of these 'Canti' must pass unnoticed.

But while these 'Canti' claim all honour as pleasant to sing and to hear in a chamber, we imagine them to contain an utterance in full of their composer's powers. They have a miniature air, which precludes much hope of Signor Gordiniani's success were he to attempt more ambitious forms of writing. It is much to the interest of the world that we should be proved in the wrong:—but the opinion may be recorded, lest any reader should be inclined to fancy that we see in these compositions more than what they are—to wit, graceful, highly finished and expressive *Romances*.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—On Wednesday last we were gratified to a rare degree. There is no pleasure in fault-finding; but when, after having stood alone for a dozen years or thereabouts in a course of objection, we find at last suggestions agreed with and acted upon, defects admitted, radical measures of cure undertaken, and further an immediate result beyond expectation—how satisfactory is the task of praising! "The Sacred Harmonic Society" is now in the fair way to become what we have long desired to see it—one of the first establishments of its kind in Europe. The orchestra is virtually reconstructed, its platform being brought forward in the front and raised at the sides, so that every performer has now room enough and a clear view of the *bâton*. The organ has shared the common lot of re-arrangement; the shrieking and confusing mixture-stops are replaced by unisonal ones, and the instrument, tuned according to the Continental plan, is by these changes rendered an assistance, whereas it used to be a nuisance. The band and chorus have been strengthened; while a strictness of rehearsal is now enjoined which must purify the society of loungers and render those belonging to it proficient. That these innovations are all necessary ones was proved by the immense advance displayed in the execution of 'Elijah' given on Wednesday night. The chorus was powerful, firm, and sensitive—the band excellent in accompaniment—and the solo-singers, with little exception, went through their tasks like persons at once animated and supported.

Remembering, as we do, that no word is more loosely used than the word *tradition* in Music, (whether it be tradition of pitch, of tempo, or of expression)—the real meaning of the same being often nothing more nor less than the speaker's own *personality* or prejudice,—we English were too close to Mendelssohn when his 'Elijah' was first prepared for performance not fully to possess his meaning. These have penetrated Signor Costa, who conducted the work admirably. We recently indicated what we conceived to be his tendencies in rendering. Not one of them was to be heard or felt amiss in his treatment of this master-piece of modern music—the next sacred work to Handel's Oratorios. For precision and spirit we were prepared; but the gravity, the smoothness, and the absence of exaggeration surpassed our expectations. Two or three points came out with a force and brilliancy not before attained: in particular that glorious sequence upon the words

But the Lord is above them and almighty
in the Thanksgiving chorus of the first act.—The

* Lest any one should mistake the above, or fancy us "stretching Reason for Love's sake," it may be pointed out that the Requiem of Mozart and Cherubini and the Masses of Beethoven are "service" music,—and thus do not come within the circle indicated.

voices in the three-fourths movement of the Baal chorus—hitherto always more or less undecided—were perfectly steady. The chorus 'He watching over Israel,' went to perfection—and the 'Sanctus' of angels, with a grandeur and clearness reached on Wednesday for the first time. The above specifications will sufficiently authenticate our praise to those who know the score of 'Elijah.' In short, Signor Costa on Wednesday added to his high reputation as a conductor—and enables us to speak of his appointment as giving promise for the future very precious to the oratorio-going public.

The singers, as we have said, were, as a body, at their best. Miss Birch merits a word of especial praise, for the power and spirit thrown into her air, 'I am He that comforteth,'—perhaps the most jubilant utterance in Music of cheerful religious hope. The movement is a difficult one:—hence a more than ordinary merit in her complete mastery of it. But the one *encore* (not to be silenced) was to the *aria*, 'O, rest in the Lord,'—sung by Miss Dolby.

SADLER'S WELLS.—On Friday week Sir E. Bulwer Lytton's play of 'Richelieu' was revived for the season, with only a slight difference in the cast usual at this theatre—Miss Cooper playing *Julie* and Miss Huddart *Françoise*. The former lady was unequal to the part; but the latter manifested again that increased energy and skill which we have already attributed to her. She should remember, however, that distinctness of elocution is requisite to give value to any other qualities of delivery. Mr. Phelps was, of course, the *Richelieu*,—and played the part with force.

OLYMPIC.—On Monday, Mr. Bernard's 'Lucille' was revived;—Mrs. Stirling performing the heroine. Though not exhibiting the *naïveté* and finish of Mrs. Keeley, the actress gave to the part a tragic dignity to which we are unaccustomed. Mr. Emery sustained the character of *De Favasour*, the undecided yet faithful lover. Altogether, the piece was well supported.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—The doubt last week expressed with regard to the *Society of British Musicians* has been solved by the arrival of a card from which we learn that it is their intention to hold three meetings in the Hanover Square Rooms, on the 13th and 27th inst., and the 11th of next month. We presume that these will be orchestral concerts.

Certain facts are of periodical recurrence. Who does not know the artists who are twice a year about to retire,—the singers who are as frequently intending to be tempted back to the stage? These tales "keep people on the alert"—as the man in the farce said of the house next door which was always on fire. About November, for instance, we are pretty sure to hear of the fusion of our two Italian Operas. How far there may be any warrant for such gossip quiet spectators who are behind neither curtain can, of course, only guess; but they are possibly not far wrong in extracting from the "certain information" (than which nothing can be more uncertain) two facts,—namely, that the management of the Haymarket does not please, and that that of Covent Garden does not "pay."

We must for a while defer our notice of Mdlle. de Roissi's singing at the *Princess's Theatre*,—described by our contemporaries as successful. But a remark suggests itself on the occasion in conjunction with the coming appearance of Mdlle. Nissen at Covent Garden. In nine cases out of ten, a *prima donna* aspiring to the highest tragic honours will select for her *début* 'Norma';—yet there has been only one English dramatic singer accomplished enough to succeed in the part. So much, on the one hand, for the vitality of story in an opera to sustain feeble music,—so much, on the other, for the deficiency in our *cantatrici* of the highest ambition!

During the reign of the gorgeous Catalani there arose Catalanis of every country and compass under the sun—Welsh, English, Russian—nay, even a man who shaved himself clean and debased himself by putting on woman's clothes and exhibiting a *false* *falsetto* mimicry of the enchantress! Paganini, too, there were by the dozen in Paganini's time; one player reaching the pass of thrusting his violin *within the bow* that he might outdo the Signor's one string. Now, a crop

of "singing Jennys" may be expected to come up. In fact, a "Liverpool Lind" has already budded, in praise of whom a journalist of the town becomes extravagantly rapturous. Need we say, by way of friendly warning, that any treasure of voice or talent, be it ever so rare, can hardly escape being flawed past remedy by the presumptuous charlatanism of such an introduction? These copies start up ready armed for success,—the long and obscure years of labour devoted by the originals whose names they impertinently assume rarely or never coming into their record!

M. Fétis writes to the *Gazette Musicale* of the Brussels Italian Opera company, already mentioned by us, in the handsomest terms. Signor Calzolari, the tenor, is gifted, he says, "with a delicious chest voice, metallic, silvery, and ready, mounting to a flat without head-notes or the least strain;" a voice cultivated in the thorough fashion of the true vocal school. His ornaments, it is added, are in excellent taste; he is also a good musician and a good actor. Here is a treasure for managers, if M. Fétis do not in some degree exaggerate, being influenced by national self-gratulation at "the poor burnt-out Italians" taking refuge in Brussels. We are inclined to suspect that this may be the case from the tone of his letter: which speaks more epigrammatically than exactly of the state of affairs in London. But allowing a handsome per-centage, Signor Calzolari is still an artist to be inquired for,—more especially as he seems capable of singing the music of Rossini.

The public will hear with regret of the death, at Paris, of Mdlle. Maria Milanollo; the younger of the two sisters whose violin playing was so peculiar and interesting an exhibition. Mdlle. Maria deserved the preference for fine spirit and genius in her performance, though she was a less perfect mechanist than her sister. Her age is given as sixteen by the journals: and they add that she was interred in the artists' corner of the cemetery of Père-la-Chaise with due honours.

In spite of so entire a metamorphosis of "thrones and principalities"—circumstances and opinions,—as is implied in the substitution of General Cavaignac for Charles X., the opera by Rossini mentioned last week seems in some degree to have succeeded at Paris,—thanks to Mesdames Persiani and Castellani (to whom is allotted a diatribe against Radetzki—an domination in Italy),—thanks, also, to a farcical character sustained by Signor Ronconi. But how is "the cast" changed since the 'Il viaggio a Reims' was executed, in glorification of the "right divine," by Mesdames Pasta, Monbelli, Cinti (then in the flower of her voice), MM. Zucchelli, Donzelli, Bordogni, Pellegrini, and Levasseur!

Yet another *début* (!) is about to take place at the *Grand Opéra* of Paris—that of Mdlle. Lagrange; a Lady whom we have mentioned, on hearsay, as having been successful in Italy. We ought now to be hearing of the appearance there of Madame Viardot-Garcia.

M. Girard has been appointed conductor of the *Conservatoire* concerts in place of M. Habeneck, who has finally retired.

A new organ of some pretension has been just placed in the Church of St. Briec (Côtes du Nord), by MM. Cavallé-Coll.—To this note it may be added, that during the recent solemnity in the Chapel of Versailles, at which M. Adam's Mass was performed, M. Ambroise Thomas performed on the organ (which is complained of as a very bad one) two or three pieces—one, a Fugue by Handel. The above are more "straws" pointing out that the wind sits in the right quarter.

The Germans are an odd people. It is not many days since we were hearing of sundry innovations just made, or making, in the service-music of the Prussian Court Church at the express instance of His Majesty:—the fruits of placid leisure!—The introduction of white-robed young ladies who play on harps, which has been described as "a feature," well enough befits days of peace or such a King René as Scott exhibited in his 'Anne of Geierstein,'—but in troublesome times like these the sound thereof, at this distance at least, is jarring. Yet who shall judge? The troubles of Germany seem absolutely to have been turned into "play" at the Opera,—since we read in the jour-

nals that on the day of the King's anniversary the 'Alceste' of Gluck was performed at the Royal Theatre in Berlin. "An official character," continues the newspaper paragraph, "was given to the solemnity by a political prologue, in which *Alceste* was represented as the Genius of German Unity gone down into the infernal regions, whom *Hercules*, the Genius of Constitutional Liberty, follows and delivers." For a goodly piece of Della-Cruscanism like this, enjoyed or permitted at a crisis of such stern reality as the present one, the musical accompaniment most befitting would have been coral, bells, whistle, quail, cuckoo, penny-trumpet, rattle, and night-owl—the entire orchestra of Haydn's *Kinder-Sinfonie*!—An Italian translation of Auber's 'Fra Diavolo' has been given with great success at the Königstadt Theatre. It is curious to see the southern repertory reinforced from French sources—but this must be done until the South shall give the world of singers a new composer.

At Munich, by way of *fête* on the birthday of the Queen, was inaugurated the statue of Gluck just erected on the *Odeon Platz*, in fulfilment of the commission of King Louis. Four thousand persons [is there not some mistake in the number?] are said to have joined in a Hymn composed for the occasion.

Rumours are current in the dramatic world that it is Mr. Macready's intention to fix his residence in America,—and possibly to become a candidate for a professorship in one of the Universities of that country.

It would seem as if actors and actresses were trying to thrust the "Penny-a-liner" from his stool—owing to the number and frequency of their communications to the daily papers. Madame Doche has been unable to take leave of her public of the *Faudeville* theatre at Paris without committing to the journals an ingenious and—in the French sense of the word—malicious explanation of the reasons for her secession.

The Administrative Committee of the *Comédie Française* has, it seems, refused to accept Mlle. Rachel's resignation. Under legal advice, they have informed the Lady that she has not the right to withdraw;—and the precedent of Mlle. Plessy is gently suggested for her consideration unless she immediately return.

The Parisian dramatic event which has taken place since those last recorded has been a translation of 'Macbeth' by M. Émile Deschamps, produced at the *Odeon* theatre. Though too academically translated—even *Lady Macbeth's* fearful soliloquy in her sleep having been thrust into such *tirade* metre as the *Chimènes* and *Camilles* of French tragedy speak—the tragedy is said by M. Janin to have succeeded entirely. He adds that it has been put on the stage with great luxury—"Nothing was wanting; neither dresses, nor *fêtes*, nor flourishes of trumpets, nor armour, nor pomp, nor ceremonies, nor *hurly burly*,—nothing was wanting!" After its kind, the critic's "*hurly burly*" is as precious, (being about as English,) as the stilted rhyme which he criticizes so intently.

The faults of our neighbours, &c. &c.!

At the *Ambigu Comique*, 'The Seven Deadly Sins' is running "like wildfire." A new *vaudeville*, 'Les Deux font la Paire,' at the *Varitès*, is said to be "the most amusing piece which has appeared within the last twenty years"—a praise calculated to disquiet Vernet's ghost if it ever walk the Boulevards.

MISCELLANEA

The Sea Serpent.—Superstition and scepticism are curiously mixed in our day. There is an audience for quackery of most kinds,—and cavillers at nearly all truths. The revelations of a Poughkeepsie Seer can find acceptance on his own testimony,—while those of an Adams and a Leverrier are disputed against that of the whole scientific world. Any sort of spiritual revelation may command a certain amount of faith on the strength of its improbability,—yet evidence of the kind held to be good for ordinary affirmation is not permitted to establish the Sea serpent. As there is not even *prima facie* improbability in the existence of such a monster, it will perhaps be finally thought that the great improbability of a number of officers in Her Majesty's

Navy reporting to the Admiralty a circumstantial lie, or being uniformly deceived in a matter of simple observation, is reasonable proof of the apparition. Meanwhile, the following speculations by a correspondent of the *Times*, seem worthy of quotation:—

One of the greatest difficulties on the face of the narrative, and which must be allowed to destroy the analogy of the motions of the so-called "sea serpent" with those of all known snakes and anguilliform fishes, is that no less than 60 feet of the animal were seen advancing a *fleur d'eau* at the rate of from 12 to 15 miles an hour, without it being possible to perceive, upon the closest and most attentive inspection, any undulatory motion to which its rapid advance could be ascribed. It need scarcely be observed that neither an eel nor a snake, if either of those animals could swim at all with the neck elevated, could do so without the front part of its body being thrown into undulation by the propulsive efforts of its tail. But, it may be asked, if the animal seen by Capt. McQuhae was not allied to the snakes or to the eels, to what class of animals could it have belonged? To this I would reply, that it appears more likely that the enormous reptile in question was allied to the gigantic *Saurians*, hitherto believed only to exist in the fossil state,—and, among them, to the *Plesiosaur*. From the known anatomical character of the *Plesiosaur*, derived from the examination of their organic remains, geologists are agreed in the inference that those animals carried their necks (which must have resembled the bodies of serpents) above the water, while their progression was effected by large paddles working beneath—the short but strong tail acting the part of a rudder. It would be superfluous to point out how closely the surmises of philosophers resemble, in these particulars, the description of the eye-witnesses of the living animal as given in the letter and drawings of Capt. McQuhae. In the latter we have many of the external characters of the former, as predicted from the examination of the skeleton. The short head, the serpentine neck carried several feet above the water, forcibly recall the idea conceived of the extinct animal; and even the bristly mane on certain parts of the back, so unlike anything found in serpents, has its analogy in the *Iguanodon*,—to which animal the *Plesiosaur* has been compared by some geologists. But I would most of all insist upon the peculiarity of the animal's progression; which could only have been effected, with the evenness and at the rate described, by an apparatus of fins or paddles not possessed by serpents, but existing in the highest perfection in the *Plesiosaur*.

Coming Picture Sale.—The collection of pictures formed by Dr. Campe, of Nuremberg, under the advice of Herr Heidelberg, is about to be conveyed to London for sale, by public auction, next spring. In it are some first-class productions of the early German school, by L. Cranach, Albert Durer, J. Mabuse, M. Wohlgemuth, and Israel Von Mecheln, which have been described and authenticated in the writings of Passavant and Kügler. Two pictures have been purchased from the collection by English travellers; namely, a picture of Van Eyck's, now at Alton Towers, by the Earl of Shrewsbury,—and another by Memling, by Lord Robert Grosvenor.—*Art-Journal*.

Mr. Lassell's Telescope.—Referring to your notice, in the *Athenæum* of the 14th of Oct., of the simultaneous discovery of the 8th satellite of Saturn, on the 18th of Sept. last, by Mr. Lassell in Liverpool and by Mr. Bond in the United States,—it may perhaps be interesting to some of your readers to know that the telescope with which Mr. Lassell has made this admirable discovery was constructed by himself, while that employed by Mr. Bond came from the celebrated establishment of Merts & Son, of Munich, and cost, I believe, upwards of 3,000*l*. Having had the good fortune to be an eye-witness to the progress of Mr. Lassell's telescope from the commencement, I can bear testimony to the almost unparalleled personal labour and exertion with which he has dedicated every leisure hour to the construction of his noble instrument, from his earnest devotion to and disinterested love for astronomical science. Among the many feats which Mr. Lassell has already performed with this "Home-made" telescope, I may particularize the discovery of the satellite and ring of the new planet Neptune; also upwards of eleven perfect observations of the 7th satellite of Saturn—which had as it were been lost to observers for nearly thirty years.—I am, &c.

Patricroft, near Manchester,
Oct. 25.

JAMES NASMYTH.

New Colonial Office.—It is the intention of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to erect immediately a new Colonial Office, more extensive and better adapted to the wants of that department of the Government than the buildings now used for the purpose in Downing-street. The new offices will be erected in Whitehall, on the site now occupied by Lady Dover's mansion, and will adjoin the Board of Trade and extend as far as the Canteen at the Horse Guards. The style of architecture will be Italian, and the design will be intrusted to Mr. Barry, the architect of the New Palace at Westminster.—*Post*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—E. M. C.—R. M.—D. A.—H. M. A.—A Subscriber of several years.—Grapho.—W. G. D.—Arab.—E. O.—Bermuda.—H. C.—W. H.—F. J. B.—G. C.—J. M.—J. L. B.—received.

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